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Original Letters,

WRITTEN

DURING THE REIGNS OF

HENRY VI. EDWARD IV.

AND

RICHARD III.

Framlingham Castle.

LONDON,
Printed for G. G. J. and J. Robinson, in Pater-noster-Row, 1789.

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An ancient Picture in the Possession of T. Kerrich M.A.
Fellow of Magdalen College Cambridge.

ORIGINAL LETTERS,

Written during the REIGNS of

HENRY VI. EDWARD IV.

AND

RICHARD III.

By various Perſons of RANK or CONSEQUENCE;

CONTAINING

Many curious ANECDOTES, relative to that turbulent and bloody, but hitherto dark, PERIOD of our HISTORY;

AND

Elucidating, not only PUBLIC MATTERS of STATE, but likewiſe the PRIVATE MANNERS of the AGE:

Digeſted in CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER;

WITH

NOTES, Hiſtorical and Explanatory;

AND

Authenticated by Engravings of AUTOGRAPHS, FAC SIMILES, PAPER MARKS, and SEALS.

IN FOUR VOLUMES.

By Sir JOHN FENN, Knight, M.A. and F.A.S.

"Tempora mutantur."

"Litera ſcripta manet."

VOL. IV.

LONDON,

Printed for G. G. J. and J. ROBINSON, in Pater-noſter-Row.

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Deſires an anſwer from his father concerning the manor of Cotton, and from his aunt Poynings of ſome matters relative to her.—Two pair of hoſe to be ſent.—The garriſon at Helleſdon well.—The roods of Bermondſey to be viſited.—His ſiſter Margery to pray to them for a good huſband.—Deſires tidings, &c. - - - - - page 224

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15 September, 1469.—9 E. IV.

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September, 1469.—9 E. IV.

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John Paſton, to ſir John Paſton, knight.

December or January, 1469.—9 E. IV.

Informed of an appeal to be lodged againſt him by the widows of thoſe men who were killed at the ſiege of Caiſter.—The reaſon of it.—Cannot come to London for want of money.—Calais.—Tidings.—Clamour great, money ſlender.—Will do his beſt, &c. - - - page 416

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23 January, 1469-70.—9 E. IV.

Goods delivered.—Bargain to be made with the archbiſhop of Canterbury, &c. relative to the probate of his father's will, and of ſir John Faſtolf's goods, &c.—Deſires tidings.—No money from ſir R. Wingfield.—Cannot make his peace with my lord and lady of Norfolk.—Appeal to be ſued out.—Court interrupted, and the book blotted, &c. - - - 420

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22 June, 1470.—10 E. IV.

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John Paſton, to ſir John Paſton, knight, or to Thomas Stomps.

25 June, 1470.—10 E. IV.

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Edward IV. to William Swan, gentleman.

7 September, 1470.—10 E. IV.

Informs him that the French and his own traiterous ſubjects are leagued together, and intend landing in or near Kent.—Commands him to prepare with all his fellowſhip to go thither to oppoſe the enemy, &c.—If they ſhould be too ſtrong, then to repair to London, and wait his orders or thoſe of his council, &c. - - - - - - - 438

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15 November, 1470.—10 E. IV. (49 H. VI.)

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20 July.

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ACCOUNT of the PLATES.

FRONTISPIECE TO VOL. IV.

THE Portrait of Edward IV. was copied for this work by the truly accurate pencil of my friend the Reverend Thomas Kerrich, Fellow of Magdalen College in Cambridge, from an Original Painting in his poſſeſſion. Edward IV.

The Cap of the King is black, the Jewel on it is gilt and ſet round apparently with Emeralds, having a Ruby in the centre; his hair is brown; his upper Robe is gilded all over, flowered with black, and edged with thin fur; under this he has black Drapery, croſſed upon the breaſt by four ſtrings of Pearls, from which depend Roſes and Trefoils, all gilt and ſet with precious ſtones of different colours; his loweſt Garment, which appears at his neck, and through the ſlaſhes in his ſleeves, is red.

The Roſe in his right hand, the emblem of his Royal Houſe, is white, having the leaves and ſtem green; his ring is gold.

The Ground of the Picture is of a dark colour. Both the Board, on which the Picture is painted, and the Frame, are cut out of one piece of oak, having the inner mouldings of the latter gilded; the outer edge and the inſcription black.

The ſize of the Original is one foot and half an inch high, and ſeven inches and ſeven eighths of an inch wide.

Edward

Edward IV. was born in 1442; became King, on the depoſition of Henry VI. in March 1460-1; left the Kingdom in 1470, when Henry VI. was reſtored; returned in 1471, and again aſcended the throne. He died in 1483, Æt. 41, and was buried in St. George's Chapel at Windſor, but the exact place of his interment was forgotten, till ſome workmen, employed in repairing the Chapel, in March 1789, accidentally diſcovered his tomb.

The Remains of the King were in a leaden coffin ſoldered, and ſome liquor was found therein, but it is ſuppoſed to have been merely the decompoſition of the body, as, on analyſis, it gave no embalming or preſerving materials.

The vault was only nine feet by four, and the words Edward IV. were written on the wall above the coffin in the characters of the age.

No Rings, Spurs, or other Inſignia, were diſcovered, and, from various circumſtances, it appeared that the vault had been formerly opened and plundered.

Framlingham Caſtle. For a deſcription of this Caſtle, engraved on the Title Page of this volume, ſee Account of the Plates p. xxxi. VOL. III.

Fac Similes and Autographs. Plates XXIV. and XXV. contain fac ſimile repreſentations of the hand writing, names, titles &c. of the writers of the Letters contained in this volume.

Paper marks. Plates XXVI. and XXVII. repreſent exact delineations of the different paper marks worked into the paper on which the Original Letters are written.

Seals, &c. Plate XXVIII. exhibits the ſeveral Seals ſtill remaining on the Letters, with repreſentations of the faſtening ſlips of paper, and ſtring, or thread, now adhering to the Originals.

ORIGINAL LETTERS.

EDWARD IV.

1460 - - - - - - 1470.
1 - - - - - - 10 E. IV.

ORIGINAL LETTERS.

LETTER I.

To my rigth revrent and worchipfull
Iohn Paſton Eſquyer or to my maytres
his Wyf.

AFTER my moſt ſpial recōmendācon lyke yor maiſterchip wete that the matr for you and my maiſtrez yor moder ayens Powtrell and Tanfeld hath ben called uppon as dylygently and as haſtely this t'me as it mygth be And al way dayes yeven hem by the co't to anſwer and than the' toke ſmale excepcons and trifeled forth the Cot And al wey excuſed them by cauſe the bylle is long and his Councell had no leyſr. to ſe it And they p'yed heryng of the teſtamet. of my maiſtr yor ı fader and therof made a noyt matr. and argued it to putte hem fro it be cauſe they had empr'led to us by fore and than Hyllyngworth to dryve it over this t'me allegged varians be twyx the bille and the teſtamet that Iohn Damme was named in the teſtamet. Ioh Dawme Jn whiche

We have here a moſt curious account of the difficulties ſtarted, and the delays craved, in a ſuit at law, and we might eaſily miſtake this for a modern Letter from a Solicitor to his Client. It ſhews us likewiſe that the difference of manners above three hundred years ago and at preſent, is not ſo great as we are too apt to think it.

cas

EDWARD IV.

LETTER I.

To my right reverend and worſhipful John Paſton, Eſquire, or to my Miſtreſs his Wife.

AFTER my moſt ſpecial recommendation, like your maſterſhip (*to*) weet that the matter for you and my miſtreſs your Mother againſt Powtrell and Tanfield hath been called upon, as diligently, and as haſtily, this term as it might be, and alway days given them by the Court to anſwer; and then they took ſmall exceptions and trifled forth the court; and alway excuſed them becauſe the bill is long, and his Counſel had no leiſure to ſee it; and they prayed hearing of the Teſtament of my maſter your [1] Father, and thereof made another matter, and argued it to put them from it, becauſe they had emparled to us *(craved reſpite of us)* before; and then Hillingworth to drive it over this term, alledged variance betwixt the Bill and the Teſtament, (*namely*) that John Damme was named in the Teſtament Joh

[1] Sir William Paſton, the Judge, who died in 1444.

 Dawme,

cas now the co^{t} muſt have ſigth of the ſaid teſtame^{t} where fore ye muſt ſend it up the begynnyng of the next t'me or ell we ſchall haue no ſped in the mat^{r} And therfor maiſtres if my maiſt^{r} be not cum hom and ye haue not the ſayd teſtame^{t}. jn yo^{r} kepyng that than it pleſe you to ſpeke un to my maiſtres yo^{r} [2] moder jn lawe for the ſeyd teſtame^{t} that I mygth redely haue it here and that it be ſealed in a box and ſent to me and I ſchall kepe it ſafe w^{t} godds g'ce And as for tytyngs in good feyth we haue non ſeve the [3] Erle of Wylchir is hed is ſette on London brigge. Mayſt^{r} Will'm is reden hom to my maiſtrs Ponyngs and as for maiſt^{r} Ponyngs hymſelf ſche letteth as thow ſche wyſt not where he were. A Gentylman that kam fro York told me my maiſt^{r} was heyl and mery and rode to mete the [4] Kyng Comyng fro Mydlam caſtell [5] Berwyk is full of Scottys. And we loke be lyklyhod aft^{r} anoy^{r} batayll now be twyx Skotts and us. And I p'y Jhu haue you jn his blyſſed kepyng.

Yo^{r}.

Thomas Playter.

11 ½ by 5 ¼.
Paper Mark,
Bull's Head and Star.
Pl. x. N° 1.

[2] Dame Agnes Paſton, the widow of the Judge.

[3] James Butler, Earl of Wiltſhire and Ormond, was taken at the battle of Towton, fought on Palm Sunday, the 29th of March, 1461, and ſoon afterwards beheaded. He had been twice Lord High Treaſurer.

Dawme, in which caſe now the Court muſt have ſight of the ſaid Teſtament, wherefore ye muſt ſend it up the beginning of the next Term, or elſe we ſhall have no ſpeed in the matter. And therefore Miſtreſs, if my Maſter be not come home, and ye have not the ſaid Teſtament in your keeping, that then it pleaſe you to ſpeak unto my Miſtreſs your [2] Mother-in-law for the ſaid Teſtament, that I might readily have it here, and that it be ſealed in a box and ſent to me, and I ſhall keep it ſafe with God's grace.

And as for tidings, in good faith we have none, ſave the Earl of [3] Wiltſhire's head is ſet on London Bridge.

Maſter William (*Paſton*) is ridden him to my Miſtreſs Poynings, and as for Maſter Poynings himſelf, ſhe letteth as though ſhe wiſt not where he were.

A Gentleman that came from York told me my Maſter was heyl (*healthy*) and merry, and rode to meet the [4] King coming from Middleham Caſtle.

[5] Berwick is full of Scots, and we look by likelihood after another battle now betwixt (*the*) Scots and us.

And I pray Jeſu have you in his bleſſed keeping.

Your,

[6] THOMAS PLAYTERS.

April, 1461.
1 E. IV.

[4] This ſhews that the king was not yet returned out of Yorkſhire to London ſince the battle of Towton.

[5] Henry VI. and his Queen after the battle eſcaped to Berwick, and from thence retired to Edinburgh.

[6] Autograph. Pl. v. N° 14. For ſome account of him, ſee Vol. I. Letter II. p. 225. Note 7.

LETTER JJ.

To my right Reverent worſchipfull maſt' my maſtr John Paſton.

RIGHT reverent and worſchipfull Maſtr J lowly recomande me unto yo' good maſt'ſchip pleſith you to witte yt I haue ben at Framelyngh'm and ſpake Ric Sothwell to hafe hes advice in this matr wherin he wolde geue me but litell Councell and ſeide ze were ſt'ungely diſpoſed for ye truſted no man and had moche langage weche the berer herof ſchal enforme your maſtrſchip And as for the letters yey were deliu'd my lorde at the logge but I cowde not ſpeke wt heſe lordeſchip and ſuche tyme as they were delyuᵉd Fitz Williā whas there weche is now keper of Caſtre and what tyme as my lorde had ſene the lett's he Comaunded hym to avoide and ſo he did And thaune my lorde ſent for Sothwell And in the meene tyme my lorde ſent a man to me and axed me where ye were and J tolde hē ye were wt the kyng and ſo he ſent me worde that an anſwere ſchulde be made be Sothwel to the King ſeyng that ii or iij eyers had ben

In the XXXVIII. Letter of the Third Volume of this Work we have ſeen that the Duke of Norfolk reported that Sir John Faſtolf had given him Caiſter; we find he has now aſſerted his claim, and ſeems to be in poſſeſſion; and though this Letter contains nothing very curious, yet as it relates to Caiſter and to the poſſeſſion of that Eſtate, it was very proper to give it to the Reader, as it leads to a previous knowledge of circumſtances, which a few years after brought on the regular ſiege of that place, the account of which is both very remarkable and very curious.

It ſeems by this Letter that the Duke of Norfolk was at this time keeping his ſecret houſe at the Lodge, where the Writer of this Letter was not permitted to ſpeak with him.

LETTER II.

To my right reverend and worſhipful Maſter, my Maſter John Paſton.

RIGHT reverend and worſhipful Maſter, I lowly recommend me unto your good maſterſhip, pleaſeth you to weet that I have been at Framlingham, and ſpake (*with*) Richard Southwell to have his advice in this matter, wherein he would give me but little counſel, and ſaid ye were ſtrangely diſpoſed, for ye truſted no man; and had much language, which the bearer hereof ſhall inform your maſterſhip.

And as for the Letters they were delivered my Lord at the Lodge, but I could not ſpeak with his Lordſhip, and ſuch time as they were delivered Fitzwilliam was there, which is now keeper of Caiſter, and what time as (*when*) my Lord had ſeen the Letters, he commanded him to avoid and ſo he did; and then my Lord ſent for Southwell, and in the mean time my Lord ſent a man to me and aſked me where ye were, and I told him ye were with the king, and ſo he ſent me word that an anſwer ſhould be made by Southwell to the king, ſaying that two or three heirs had been with my Lord and ſhewed their evi-

The order for the eſtabliſhment of the ſecret Houſe is given in the Earl of Northumberland's Houſehold Book, where it is ſaid that "at certain times of the year the nobility retired from their principal Manſion to ſome little adjoining Lodge; where they lived private, no longer kept open houſe, but put their Servants to Board-wages, diſmiſſed part of them to go to their Friends, and only retained a few of the moſt neceſſary about their perſon."

Edward IV. was crowned on Monday the 29th of June, 1461; and from the mention of his Coronation the exact date of this Letter is aſcertained; Corpus Chriſti day is the Thurſday after the Octave of Whitſunday.

Autograph. Pl. XVIII. N° 9.

dence,

w^t my lorde and ſhewed her euidence and delyu'd it to my lorde ſeyng yey haue had gret wrong beſechyng my lorde yat it myght be reformed Wherfor he comaunded me that J ſhulde go hom for other anſwer cowde I non have ſo I aboude uppon Sothwel to a know my lordes anſwer to the Kyng weche anſwere Sothwel tolde me was y^t he writeth to the Kyng that certeine points in yo^r lett's be untrew and that he ſchal prove ſuche tyme as he Cometh befor the Kyng beſechyng the Kyng to take it to no diſpleſur for he is adviſed to kepe it ſtill unto the tyme that he hath ſpaken w^t his highneſſe for he truſteth to God to ſchewe ſuche evidence to the Kyng and to the lords that he ſchulde haue beſt right and titill therto and ſo he ſent a man forthe to y^e Kyng this Day it were right wele don ye awayted upon hes man Comyng y^t ye myght knowe the redy entent of my lordes writyng Berthelmew Elyſſe hathe ben w^t my lorde and made a releſſe to my lord and S' Will Chamb'leine was ther ij dayes afore J come thirder I can thynke for the ſame mat^r And Thom's Faſtolf whas there y^e ſame tyme y^t I was yer and as I am enformed they haue delyu'd my lorde ſerteine evidence Wherfor me ſemeth it wer right wele don ſavyng yo^r bett^r advice to com hem and ſele up yo^r evidence and haue hem w^t you to london to p'ue his titill noght. Ther be but ij or iij men w^t in the place and if ye thynke it beſt to do it ſend word and J ſuppoſe a remedy ſchal be had alſo J here no word of maſt' Will' nor of the Writts for the p'lament Alſo it is tolde here that

Tudenh'm

dence, and delivered it to my Lord, ſaying they have great wrong, beſeeching my Lord that it might be reformed; wherefore he commanded me that I ſhould go home, for other anſwer could I none have; ſo I abode (*waited*) upon Southwell to have known my Lord's anſwer to the King, which anſwer Southwell told me was, that he writeth to the King that certain points in your Letters be untrue, and that he ſhall prove (*at*) ſuch time as he cometh before the King, beſeeching the King to take it to no diſpleaſure, for he is adviſed to keep it ſtill unto the time that he hath ſpoken with his Highneſs, for he truſteth to God to ſhew ſuch evidence to the King and to the Lords that he ſhould have beſt right and title thereto; and ſo he ſent a man forth to the King this day; it were right well done, ye awaited upon his man coming, that ye might know the ready intent of my Lord's writing.

Bartholomew Ellis hath been with my Lord, and made a releaſe to my Lord; and Sir William Chamberlaine was there two days before I came thither, I can think for the ſame matter; and Thomas Faſtolf was there (*at*) the ſame time that I was there, and as I am informed they have delivered my Lord certain evidence; wherefore me ſeemeth it were right well done, ſaving your better advice, to come home and ſeal up your evidence, and have them with you to London, to prove his title nought. There be but two or three men within the place, and if ye think it beſt to do it ſend word, and I ſuppoſe a remedy ſhall be had.

Alſo, I hear no word of Maſter William, nor of the Writs for the parliament. Alſo it is told here that Todenham and Heydon

Tudenh'm and Heydon haue a p'don of the Kyng and that they ſchal come up to london w^t the lady of Suff. to the Coronacon Alſo as for the lett^r y^t ye ſent to Thom's Wyngfeld I haue it ſtill for he is at london ſome men ſey he meved my lord for to entre and ſom ſey Fitz Willi̅ is in defaute ſo J can ſee ther is but fewe goode Alſo my maſt' S' Thom's Howys ſchol ſend a lett' to the p'ſon ye wote of for to deliu' you the gere at london the next weke my right wo'ſchipfull and reuerent maſtre Almyghti God p'ſerue you Wreten at Norweche on the morwe aft^r Corpus xpi Day.

Yo^r pore ſ'vu̅t and bedman,

R. C.

11 ¼ by 8 ½.

Paper Mark,
A Bull.
Pl. XXII. N° 16.

Seal: an Eagle's Head eraſed, having an Eſcroll iſſuing from its Mouth. Motto illegible. Pl. XXIII. N° 8.

LETTER III.

To my maiſt^r Paſton.

RIGHT Wurſhipfull and myn eſpeciall good maiſter I recomaund me to yow w^t all my ſ'uice beſechyng you hertily at the Reu'ence of god to helpe me now in the gretteſt extremite that I cam at ſith my greet trobil w^t Jngh'm It is not oute of yo^r remenbraunce how Twyer jn Norff vexith me bothe

have a pardon of the King, and that they ſhall come up to London with the Lady of Suffolk to the Coronation; alſo as for the Letter that ye ſent to Thomas Wingfield, I have it ſtill, for he is at London; ſome men ſay he moved my Lord for to enter, and ſome ſay Fitzwilliam is in default, ſo I can ſee there is but few good. Alſo my Maſter Sir Thomas Howys ſhall ſend a Letter to the perſon ye weet of, for to deliver you the geer at London the next week; my right worſhipful and reverend Maſter, Almighty God preſerve you. Written at Norwich, on the morrow after Corpus Chriſti day.

Your poor Servant and Beadſman,

RICHARD CALLE.

Norwich,
Friday, 5th of June,
1461. 1 E. IV.

LETTER III.

To my Maſter Paſton.

RIGHT worſhipful and mine eſpecial good Maſter, I recommend me to you with all my ſervice, beſeeching you heartily, at the reverence of God, to help me now in the greateſt extremity that I came at ſince my great trouble with Ingham. It is not out of your remembrance how Twyer in Norfolk vexeth

by noiſe and ſerchyng myn ho' for me ſo that theer I can not be in quyete And all that I am verily acerteyned is by Heydens Crafft And heer in the Kyngs houſe annenſt Howard wher I had hopid to a relevid myſelf I am ſupplanted and caſt oute from hym by a clamor of all his ſruaunts at onys And newer oonly that his diſpoſicon acordyth not to my pou' Conceyte which maketh me to gif leſſe force be cauſe I deſire not to dele ther bribery is like to be vſid Ellis by my trouth This unhappy unkyndenes wold I trow a killed me I p'y yow at the revrence of Jhu criſte to enforme my lord of Warwyk of me p'de I haf do hym ſrvice I was wt hym at Northampton that all men knew And now agayn at ſeynt Albones that knowt Iames Ratcliff And ther loſt I xx li. wurth horſe herneys and mony And was hurte in divrſe placs I p'y yow to gete me his good lordſhip and that I may be toward hym in Norff' in his Courts holdyng or ellis if ony thyng he haf to do And that ye wole gete me a letter to Twyer to late me ſit in reſt For now if I made any felaſhip agayn Twyer I can haf no colour now the ſhirref and I be oute ſo I muſt kepe me aparte which I am lothe to do be god if I myght bettr do J beſech yow to ſend me yor Intent by the next man that Come from yow I ſhuld a come to zow but ſo help me

This complaining Letter muſt have been written early in the reign of Edward IV. as the writer mentions having been preſent at the battle of Northampton (July, 1460) "and now (*lately*) agayn at Seynt Albones" (February, 1460-1).

He looks up to the Earl of Warwick for relief in his diſtreſs, and ſeems to think himſelf entitled to it for having fought under his banner in favour of the Houſe of York.

The contents are deſcriptive of the times when it was written, and therefore I have given it.

god

me both by noiſe and ſearching mine houſe for me, ſo that there I cannot be in quiet, and all that, I am verily aſcertained, is by Heydon's craft; and here in the King's houſe anenſt (*by means of*) Howard, where I had hoped to have relieved myſelf, I am ſupplanted and caſt out from him by a clamour of all his Servants at once; and ne (*nothing*) were, only that his diſpoſition accordeth not to my poor conceit, which maketh me to give leſs force, becauſe I deſire not to deal there (*where*) bribery is like to be uſed, elſe by my truth this unhappy unkindneſs would, I trow, have killed me. I pray you at the reverence of Jeſus Chriſt to inform my Lord of Warwick of me; perde (*par Dieu*) I have done him ſervice; I was with him at Northampton, that all men know, and now again at St. Alban's, that knoweth James Ratcliffe, and there loſt I twenty pounds worth (*of*) horſe, harneſs, and money, and was hurt in divers places. I pray you to get me his good Lordſhip, and that I may be toward him in Norfolk in his Courts holding, or elſe, if any thing he has to do; and that ye will get me a Letter to Twyer to let me ſit in reſt, for now if I made any fellowſhip againſt Twyer, I can have no colour now the Sheriff and I be out, ſo I muſt keep me apart, which I am loath to do, by God, if I might better do.

I beſeech you to ſend me your intent by the next man that come from you; I ſhould have come to you, but, ſo help me God, my purſe may no farther.

We have in theſe Letters ſeldom met with any expreſſions tending to oaths, in this the writer firſt ſays perde, meaning par Dieu; an excuſable expreſſion indeed: but a little farther, he plainly writes "by God."

Autograph. Pl. III. N° 35. And Pl. xxv. N° 2.

The

god my purs may no ferther The holy trinite p'ſerve yow Wretyn haſtily at York, &c.

Yo^r to his power,

Denpes.

12 ¼ by 6.
Seal,
A T ſurmounted
by a Coronet.
Pl. XXVIII. N° I.

LETTER JU.

To my rygth wirchipfel
hoſbond Iohn Paſton
be y^is delyverid in haſt.

RYTH worſhipfull hoſbond I recōmawnd me to yow deſyrȳg hertyly to her of yo^r welfar p'ying yow y^t ye woll ſend me word in haſt how ye be agreid w^t Wychyngh'm and Ingloſe for y^t mat^r that ye ſpake to me of at yo^r dep^rtyng for if j ſhuld p'vey oy^r wood or hey it ſhuld be bowgth beſt chepe be twixt yis and ſeynt Margretys meſſe as itt is told me As for Applyard he com not yett to this town ſyn he com from london I have ſent to S^r Bryſe to lete me have knowleche when he comyth to town and he hath p'myſid y^t I ſhall have knowleche and when he comyth I ſhall do yo^r cōmawndemēt My moder bad me ſend yow word y^t Waron Herman hath dayly fyſhid hyre water all y^is yer and y'for ſhe p'yith yow to do y'for while

ye

The Trinity preſerve you. Written haſtily at York, &c.

Yours, to his Power,

THOMAS DENYES.

York,
Before July, 1461.
1 Ed. IV.

LETTER IV.

To my right worſhipful Huſband John Paſton, be this delivered in haſte.

RIGHT worſhipful huſband, I recommend me to you, deſiring heartily to hear of your welfare, praying you that ye will ſend me word in haſte how ye be agreed with Wychinham and Inglos, for that matter that ye ſpake to me of at your departing, for if I ſhould purvey either wood or hay it ſhould be bought beſt cheap betwixt this and Saint Margaret's Maſs, (20 *July*) as it is told me. As for Appleyard he come not yet to this town ſince he come from London; I have ſent to Sir Bryſe to let me have knowledge when he cometh to town, and he hath promiſed that I ſhall have knowledge, and when he cometh I ſhall do your commandment. My Mother bad me ſend you word that Waryn Herman hath daily fiſhed her water all this year, and therefore ſhe prayeth you to do therefore, while

ye

ye be att london as ye thynk beſt. [1] Chyrche of Byrlyngh'm was take and browte to y^e^ Caſtell yiſt^r^day be y^e^ beſhopys men and all his godys ben ſeyſid for y^t^ he owyth to y^e^ boſhop And y^e^ ſeid Chirche ſeyth as for y^t^ he hath ſeyd of hem y^t^ he hath appelyd befor y^is^ tyme he woll awow itt and abyd yerby and ſeyth y^t^ he woll appele on y^t^ hath mor nobelys yan they have all y^t^ he hath ſpoke of yett and y^t^ ſhall Avayll y^e^ king mor yan yey have all y^t^ he hath ſpeke of yett but what he is he woll not name tyll he know mor I trow but if y^t^ be the grett labo^r^ made ayens hym he is lyke to have grett favo^r^ of hem y^t^ have be his ſupportors Men thenk y^t^ have ſpoke w^t^ hym y^t^ he hop^t^ to have good helpe I p'y god that y^e^ trewth mote be knowyn I p'y yow y^t^ ye woll vowcheſaff to ſend me an oy^r^ ſugo^r^ loff for my old is do And alſo y^t^ ye well do make a gyrdill for yo^r^ dowgter for ſhe hath nede y'of The blyſſid t'nyte have yow in his kepȳg Wretyn at Norwyche ī haſt on y^e^ tewyſday next befor ſeynt Thom's day

[2] Paper is deynty.

Yours,

[3] M. P.

8 ½ by 9 ½.

I think this Letter was written about the beginning of Edward the Fourth's reign; but of that I cannot be certain, It ſhews Waryn Herman to be a troubleſome neighbour to his mother,

[1] Whom Church means to appeal, or for what offence, does not appear, though it ſeems to be for ſome miſdemeanor for which a fine would accrue to the King.

LET-

ye be at London, as ye think beſt. [1] Church of Burlingham was taken and brought to the Caſtle yeſterday, by the Biſhop's men, and all his goods be ſeized for that he oweth to the Biſhop; and the ſaid Church ſaith, as for that he hath ſaid of them that he hath appealed before this time, he will avow it and abide thereby; and ſaith that he will appeal one that hath more nobles than they have all, that he hath ſpoken of yet, and ſhall avail the King more than they have all that he hath ſpoken of yet, but what he is he will not name till he know more. I trow but if (*unleſs*) there be the great labour made againſt him, he is like to have great favour of them that have been his ſupporters; men think, that have ſpoken with him, that he hopeth to have good help; I pray God that the truth might be known.

I pray you that ye will vouchſafe to ſend me another ſugar loaf, for my old is done; and alſo that ye will do make (*have made*) a girdle for your Daughter, for ſhe hath need thereof. The bleſſed Trinity have you in his keeping.

Written at Norwich, in haſte, on the Tueſday next before Saint Thomas's day.

[2] Paper is dainty.

Yours,

[3] MARGARET PASTON.

Norwich,
Tueſday, end of June or beginning of July,
about 1461. 1 Ed. IV.

[2] "Paper is deynty," this, I believe, is the only letter in which a want of paper is complained of. The Letter is written upon a piece nearly ſquare, out of which a quarter had been cut before the letter was written.

[3] Autograph. Pl. II. N° 25.

LETTER II.

To my Right noble and Wurſhipfull Maſtreſſe my Maſtreſſe Paſton or to William Paſton if ſhe be abſent.

RIGHT noble and Wurſhipfull Maſtreſſe I recomaund me to yow w^t my pou^r f'viſe and for ſo moche as I here no thyng of my maiſt' yo^r huſbonds comyng haſtly home and though he cam or come not it were expedient that the Kyng were infourmed of the demenyng of the Shire Therfore I ſend to yow a teſtymonyall which is made by a greet aſſent of greet multitude of Comons to ſend to the Kyng I p'y you for the good ſpede therof that in all haſt poſſible ye like to ſend it to my ſaid Maiſt^r if he be w^t the Kyng Ellis fynde the meane to ſend it to the Kyng thogh my Maiſt^r be thens. Beſide forthe that ye vouchſauf to late diligent labo^r be made to a ſufficient nombir to aſſele for my Maiſt^r Paſton allone For if bothe holde not I wolde oon helde I p'y yow that it lyke you to ſend for my Maiſt^r William Paſton and ſhew hym all thys and that it were haſtid for on the Adu^rſaire p^rte Iudas ſlepith not Berney p'miſed to a ſent but for our lords love truſt not that for I ſe his ſlouthe

This Letter was written in the beginning of July in the year 1461, 1 E. IV. and relates to Election matters.

The multitude of Commons muſt mean ſuch as poſſeſſed freehold lands to the yearly value of 40s.; for in the eighth and tenth years of the reign of Henry VI. acts of parliaments paſſed to reſtrain all thoſe from voting for Knights of the Shire who did not poſſeſs that property, &c. See 8 H. VI. c. vii. and 10 H. VI. c. ii.

LETTER V.

To my right noble and worſhipful Miſtreſs my Miſtreſs Paſton, or to William Paſton if ſhe be abſent.

RIGHT noble and worſhipful miſtreſs I recommend me to you with my poor ſervice, and for ſo much as I hear nothing of my maſter your huſband's coming haſtily home, and though he come, or come not, it were expedient that the King were informed of the demeaning of the ſhire; therefore I ſend to you a teſtimonial which is made by a great aſſent of great multitude of Commons to ſend to the King; I pray you for the good ſpeed thereof, that in all haſte poſſible ye like to ſend it to my ſaid maſter, if he be with the King, elſe find the mean to ſend it to the King though my maſter be thence; beſide forth that ye vouchſafe to let diligent labour be made to a ſufficient number to aſſeal for my maſter alone, for if both hold not, I would one held.

I pray you that it like you to ſend for my maſter William Paſton, and ſhew him all this, and that it were haſted, for, on the Adverſary's part, Judas ſleepeth not.

Berney promiſed to have ſent, but for our Lord's love truſt not that, for I ſee his ſloth and ſilly labour, which is no labour, and I would full fain ſpeak with you, &c.

The laſt ſentence is a prettily turned compliment upon his miſtreſs Margaret Paſton.

Autograph. Pl. xxv. N° 2.

It appears from the following Letters that the writer of this was murdered a very few days after he wrote it, by a party in the intereſt of the Houſe of Lancaſter.

and ſely labor which is no labour And I wold ful fayn ſpeke wt yow, &c. My Maiſtr yor huſbond wole p'aventure blame us all if this matr be not applied for he may not of reſon do ſo largely heryn by his myght be cauſe he is elyted As the Cemons myght wiſely do wt help of his favor if it wer wiſely wrought If my Maiſtr W Paſton ride haſtly from a x daies to london J wole wt hym if he ſend me word The holy trinite p'ſerve yow Wretyn rudely in haſt the ſunday, &c.

Men ſey ſend a wiſeman on thy erand and ſey
litell to hym. Wherfor I write brefly
and litell

Thomas Denpes.

11 ½ by 6.

LETTER IJ.

To my Coſyn Margret
Paſton.

I Recomaund me to yow letyng yow wete yt the underſhreve doughtyth hym of John Berney Wherfore I pray yow bryng hem to gedyr and ſet hem acord if ye can ſo yt the ſeyd underſhreve be ſure yt he ſhall not be hurt be hym ner of hys Cuntry men And eyf he woll not lete hym verely underſtonde yt he ſhall be Compellyd to fynd hym ſuerte of the pes to agry in thys heed

My maſter, your huſband, will peradventure blame us all, if this matter be not applied, for he may not of reaſon do ſo largely herein by his might, becauſe he is elyted (*elected*), as the Commons might wiſely do with help of his favour, if it were wiſely wrought. If my maſter William Paſton ride haſtily from a x dayes (*within ten days*) to London, I will with him, if he ſend me word. The Holy Trinity preſerve you.

Written rudely in haſte the Sunday, &c.

Men ſay, ſend a wiſeman on thy errand and ſay little to him, wherefore I write briefly and little.

THOMAS DENYES.

Sunday,
July, 1461. 1 E. IV.

LETTER VI.

To my Couſin Margaret Paſton.

I Recommend me to you, letting you weet that the Under Sheriff doubteth him of John Berney, wherefore I pray you bring them together, and ſet them accord (*through*) if ye can, ſo that the ſaid Under Sheriff be ſure that he ſhall not be hurt by him nor of his countrymen; and if he will not, let him verily underſtand, that he ſhall be compelled to find him ſurety of the peace

heed And y^t ſhall nowther be p'fitabyll ner worchepful and lete hym wete y^t there have be many Compleynts of hym be y^e knavyſsh Knyght S^r Miles [1] Stapilton as I ſent yow word before but he ſhall Come to hys excuſe wele Jnow ſo he have a mannys hert and the ſeyd Stapylton ſhall ben ondyrſtand as he ys a fals ſhrewe and he and hys wyfe and other have blaveryd here of my kynred in hedermoder but be y^t tyme we have rekned of old dayes and late dayes myn ſhall be found more worchepfull thanne hys and hys wyfes or ellys J woll not for hys gilt [2] gypcer Alſo telle the ſeyd Berney y^t y^e Shreve ys in a dought whedyr he ſhall make a newe eleccon of knyghts of the ſhyre be cauſe of hym and Grey where in it were bettyr for hym to have the ſhreves good wyll Jt'm me thynkyth for quiete of the Cuntre it were moſt worchepfull y^t as wele Berney as Grey ſhuld get A record of all ſuche y^t myght ſpend xl^s ayere y^t wer at the day of eleccon whech of them y^t had feweſt to geve it vp as reſon wold Wretyn at london on [3] Relyk Sonday.

This Letter is undoubtedly written by John Paſton to his wife Margaret Paſton, it is therefore difficult to ſay why he directs to her as to his Couſin; I ſuppoſe from the late change of government he was cautious of being known to correſpond with any one, leſt he ſhould be ſuſpected by either party; and as this Letter was on matters relative to an Election of Knights of the Shire, he might be particularly careful not to have his ſentiments known, fearing another change might take place, as the times were ſo unſettled.

Sir John Howard was Sheriff of Norfolk and Suffolk at this time, though the Under-Sheriff ſeems to have been the manager in theſe Election diſputes.

J. Paſton's advice concerning the Election ſeems not only judicious, but calculated to promote the peace of the county; a thing at this period much to be deſired by the new King.

Jt'm

peace to agree on this head, and that ſhall neither be profitable nor worſhipful; and let him weet that there have been many complaints of him by that knaviſh Knight Sir Miles [1] Stapylton, as I ſent you word before, but he ſhall come to his excuſe well enough ſo he have a man's heart, and the ſaid Stapylton ſhall be underſtood, as he is a falſe ſhrew, and he and his wife and other have blavered (*blabbed or prated*) here of my kindred in hoder moder (*hugger mugger, clandeſtinely*), but, by that time we have reckoned of old days and late days, mine ſhall be found more worſhipful than his and his wife's, or elſe I will not for his gilt [2] gypcer (*purſe*).

Alſo tell the ſaid Berney that the Sheriff is in a doubt whether he ſhall make a new election of Knights of the Shire, becauſe of him and Grey, wherein it were better for him to have the Sheriff's good will.

Item, me thinketh for quiet of the Country it were moſt worſhipful, that as well Berney as Grey ſhould get a record of all ſuch that might ſpend forty Shillings a year, that were at the day of election, which of them that had feweſt to give it up as reaſon would. Written at London, on [3] Relick Sunday.

[1] Sir Miles Stapylton, knight, of Ingham, died in 1466, and was there buried; his firſt wife was Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Simon Felbrigg; his ſecond was Catharine, daughter of Thomas de la Pole, ſecond ſon to the Earl of Suffolk; ſhe was living in 1464, and was moſt probably the lady here mentioned.

[2] This word is uſed by Chaucer in his Prologues, where deſcribing "The Frankeleyn," he ſays,

"An Onelace and Gypſere al of ſylk,
"Hung at his gyrdle, white as morowe milke."

[3] Relick Sunday is the Sunday following the tranſlation of St. Thomas à Becket.

Item,

Jt'm y[t] ye ſend abought for ſylver acordyng to the old bylle y[t] I ſent yow from lynne.

[a] John Paſton.

11 ¼ by 3 ½.
Paper Mark,
ſomething reſembling
an Helmet.
Pl. xxvi. N° 7.

[a] Autograph. Pl. xxiv. N° 6.

LETTER VJ.

Margaret Paſton to John Paſton.

I Recomand me to yow pleaſe yow to wete that I haue ſent to my Coſyn Barney Acordyng to yo[r] deſyr in y[e] lett[r] y[t] ye deed wright on Relec Sonday to me wheropon he hathe wreten a lett[r] to yow and anothyr bylle to me y[e] wyche J ſend yow he tolde y[e] Maſang[r] y[t] I ſent to hym y[t] ye vnd[r]ſhereve nedyth not to fer hym nor non of hys for he ſeyd aft[r] ye Aleccion was doo he ſpak w[t] hym at y[e] grey fryers and p'yyd hym of hys good maſt[r]chep And ſeyd to hym y[t] he feryd no man of bodely harme but only Twyer and hys felachep It'm S[r] Iohn Taterſalle and y[e] baly of Walſynſh'm and y[e] cōſtabyll hathe take y[e] p[r]ſon of Snoryng and iiij of hys men and ſete hem faſt in y[e] Stokkys on Monday at nyght and as it is ſeyd they ſhuld be carryyd up to y[e] kyng in haſt God defend yt but they be ſhaſtyſyd as y[e] lawe wolle

Item, that ye ſend about for Silver according to the old bill that I ſent you from Lynn.

JOHN PASTON.

London, Sunday,
12 July, 1461.
1 E. IV.

LETTER VII.

Margaret Paſton, to John Paſton.

I Recommend me to you, pleaſe you to weet that I have ſent to my Couſin Berney, according to your deſire in the Letter that ye did write on Relick Sunday to me, whereupon he hath written a letter to you and another bill to me, the which I ſend you. He told the meſſenger, that I ſent to him, that the Under Sheriff needeth not to fear him nor none of his, for he ſaid, after the Election was done, he ſpake with him at the Grey Friars, and prayed him of his good maſterſhip, and ſaid to him that he feared no man of bodily harm, but only Twyer and his fellowſhip.

Item, Sir John Taterſalle, and the Bailiff of Walſingham, and the Conſtable, hath taken the parſon of Snoring and four of his men, and ſet them faſt in the ſtocks on Monday at night; and as it is ſaid they ſhould be carried up to the King in haſte; God defend it but they be chaſtiſed as the law will. Twyer and his

wolle Twyer and hys felachep beryth a gret wyght of Thom's Denys dethe in y^{s} contry abowght Walfynh'm and it is ſeyd ther yf Iohn Oſberne hade owght hym as good wylle as he deed befor y^{t} he was aqueȳtyd w^{t} Twyer he ſhuld not adyyd for he myght rewlyd al Walſynh'm as he had lyſt as it ys ſeyd. It'm Will lynys y^{t} was w^{t} Maſt^{r} Faſtolf and ſwyche other as he is w^{t} hym goo faſt abowght in y^{e} Contr and ber men a hand preſts and others they be Skotts and take brybys of hem and let hem goo ageyn he toke the laſt wek y^{e} p'ſon of Freton and but for my Coſyn Iarnyngh'm y^{e} yonger ther wold a led hem forthe w^{t} hem And he told hem pleȳly yf they mad any ſuche doyngs ther but they had y^{e} lett^{r} to ſchewe for hem they ſhuld aley on her bodyys it wer welle do y^{t} they wer metw^{t} be tymys it is told me y^{t} y^{e} ſeyd will reportyth of yow as ſhamfully as he can in dyu's place Jhu have yow in hys kepyng Wreten in haſt y^{e} Wednyſday aft^{r} Relec ſonday.

yf y^{e} vnd^{r}ſhereve Come home

J woll a ſay to do for hym as ye deſyryd me in yo^{r} lett^{r} As for mony I have ſent abowght and I can get non but xiij^{s} iiij^{d} ſyn ye went owght J wolle do my p^{r}te to get mor as haſtely as ye may.

By yo^{r},

M. P.

11 ½ by 3 ½.

This is an anſwer to the preceding Letter, and is plainly written by Margaret Paſton to her Huſband John Paſton, though it has no direction; it informs him what ſhe had done towards executing his commands, and gives him further information.

ſhip beareth a great weight of Thomas Denys' death in the Country about Walſingham, and it is ſaid there, if John Oſbern had ought him as good will, as he did before that he was acquainted with Twyer, he ſhould not have died, for he might *(have)* ruled all Walſingham, as he had liſt, as it is ſaid.

Item, William Lynys that was with Maſter Faſtolf, and ſuch other, as he is, with him, go faſt about in the Country and bear men a hand prieſts and other, they be Scots, and take bribes of them and let them go again. He took the laſt week the parſon of Fritton, and but for my Couſin Jarnyngham the younger, they would have led him forth with them, and he told them plainly if they made any ſuch doings there, but (*unleſs*) they had the Letter to ſhew for them, they ſhould have aley on their bodies (*be beaten*); it were well done that they were met with him by times. It is told me that the ſaid William reporteth of you as ſhamefully as he can in divers places. Jeſu have you in his keeping. Written in haſte, the Wedneſday after Relick Sunday.

If the Under Sheriff come home I will aſſay to do for him as ye deſired me in your Letter; as for money, I have ſent about, and can get none but 13*s.* 4*d.* ſince ye went out; I will do my part to get more as haſtily as I may.

By your,

MARGARET PASTON.

Wedneſday,
15th July, 1461.
1 E. IV.

Richard Cheyne was parſon of Little Snoring at this time, and John Fowler of Great Snoring.

Autograph. Pl. II. N° 25.

LETTER VIII.

To the Ryght Worſhipfull
John Paſton Squyer in haſt.

SIR I recomaund me to zow &c. And as for my playn dyſpoſyſſyon towards the undyrſhrewe I wyll hym no bodyli hurt nor ſhal not be hurt by me nor by noo man that J may Rewle but the Comynnes throw all the Schyer be movyd agayn hym for cauſe of his lyght demeanyng towards them for this Elexſyon of knygtts of the Shyer for y^e p^rlement And J ſuppoſe yf that he wyll he may be haſtyli Eaſyd as thus lat hym make notys unto the ſeyd Comynnes that this they^r Eleccyon ſhall ſtande or Ellys lat hym purchas a new wryt and lat hym make wrytyng unto them what day they ſhall Come and they to make a new Eleccyon acordyng vnto the law And Sir I pray zow ſey to hym that it is nott his Oneſte to lye upon too many men noyſyng them Rebyliones of Norff and B. theyr C .. .. No more to zow at this tyme but I haff ſent zow ij letteris w^tin this viij dayes. Wretyn the xvij day of July A° R R Eiiij^ti 1^mo.

John Berney.

12 by 3 ¾.

This is the Letter mentioned by Margaret Paſton in the preceding one to her Huſband, and explains the behaviour of the Under Sheriff, who appears to have been in an oppoſite intereſt to Berney, and in the party of the lately dethroned King Henry. The other Letter ſent by Berney is N°. VI. in the Firſt Volume, dated the 10th of July, 1461.

LETTER VIII.

To the right worſhipful John Paſton, Eſquire, in haſte.

SIR, I recommend me to you, &c. and as for my plain diſpoſition towards the Under Sheriff, I will him no bodily hurt, nor (*he*) ſhall not be hurt by me, nor by no man that I may rule; but the Commons through all the Shire be moved againſt him, for cauſe of his light demeaning towards them for this Election of Knights of the Shire for the Parliament; and I ſuppoſe if that he will, he may be haſtily eaſed as thus, let him make notice unto the ſaid Commons, that this their Election ſhall ſtand, or elſe let him purchaſe a new Writ, and let him make writing unto them what day they ſhall come, and they to make a new Election according unto the law; and, Sir, I pray you ſay to him, that it is not his honeſty to lie upon ſo many men, noiſing them Rebyliones (*Rebels*) of Norfolk, and B. (*Berney*) their Captain. No more to you at this time, but I have ſent you two Letters within this eight days. Written the 17th day of July, in the 1ſt year of the reign of Edward IV.

JOHN BERNEY.

Friday,
17th of July, 1461.
1 E. IV.

Autograph. Pl. v. N° 15.
The impreſſion on the Seal is defaced, but it has a braid of twine faſtened to it, and ſtill adhering to the wax.

LET-

LETTER IX.

To my Worchepful hoſbonde
Ion Paſtū ys lett' be delyu'
in haſt.

RYTH Worchepful huſbond I Recomawnd me to yow pleſyt yow to wete yt I am deſyrid be Sr Joh Tatrſale to wryte to yow for a Comyſſion or a noyr in t'myn' for to be ſent down in to ys cūtre to ſit uppō ye p'ſon of ſnoryng and on ſoche as was Cauſe of Thom's Denyſſys dethe and for many and gret horebyl robryys and as for ye coſts yer of ye cuntre wele pay yer-for for yey be ſor aferd but ye ſeyd dethe be chaſtyſyd and ye ſeyd robryys yey ar aferde yt mo folks xal be ſ'uyd in lyke wyſe as for ye preſt and vj of heſe mē yt be takyn yey be delyur yt to Twer and iiij b' wt hē of ye cūtreys Coſt for to be ſent wt to ye Kyng and yf yey be browt vp at ye reverēs of god do yowr p'te yt yey ſchape not but yt yey may haue ye Jugemēt of ye lawe and as yey haue def'uyd and be Comytyt to p'ſon not to deprte tyl yey be inqueryd of her forſeyd robery bę ſoche a comyſſion yt ye cā get yt ye Keng and ye lords may hondyrſtōde wat rewle yey haue be of not hondely for ye mod'rys and ye robbryys but as wele for ye gret inſurrexſin yt yey wer lyke amade wtin ye ſhyre ye preeſts of Caſtyr yey be ſtreytely take hede at be Roberd

This and ſome of the foregoing Letters, are very curious, as they afford a ſtriking picture of the times, and diſplay the misfortunes ever attendant on the people at large, when ſo violent a convulſion happens in the government of a Kingdom.

Har-

LETTER IX.

To my worſhipful Huſband John Paſton, this Letter be delivered in haſte.

RIGHT worſhipful Huſband, I recommend me to you, pleaſe it you to weet that I am deſired by Sir John Taterſalle to write to you for a commiſſion, or an Oyer and Terminer, for to be ſent down into this country to ſit upon the Parſon of Snoring, and on ſuch as was cauſe of Thomas Denys' death, and for many and great horrible Robberies; and as for the coſts thereof the country will pay therefore, for they be ſore afraid but *(unleſs)* the ſaid death be chaſtiſed, and the ſaid Robberies, they are afraid that more folks ſhall be ſerved in like wiſe. As for the Prieſt and ſix of his men that be taken, they be delivered to Twyer, and four be with them of the Country's coſt, for to be ſent with to the King; and if they be brought up at the reverence of God, do your part that they eſcape not, but that they may have the judgment of the law, and as they have deſerved, and be committed to Priſon, not to depart till they be enquired of their foreſaid robbery by ſuch a commiſſion that ye can get, that the King and the Lords may underſtand what rule they have been of, not only for the Murders and the Robberies, but as well for the great inſurrection that they were like a made *(to have made)* within the Shire. The Prieſts of Caiſter they be ſtraitly

Murders, Robberies, and acts of extortion cannot then be prevented even in times that boaſt of refinement in laws, manners, and arts; in the ferocious period here reviewed, they muſt have been proportionably terrible.

Autograph. Pl. II. N° 25. Seal, a Fleur de Lys. Pl. XXIII. N° 7.

take

Harmerer and hod^{r} ſo y^{t} y^{e} ſeyde p'ſtys may haue no thȳg out of y^{e}r owne ne of hodyr menys but y^{e}y be raſſakyt and y^{e} plaſe ys watchyd bothe day and nyth y^{e} pſtys thynk ryth longe tyl they tydynggs fro yow at y^{e} reuerēs of god be ware hou ye goo and ryde for y^{t} ys told me y^{t} ye thret of hē y^{t} be nowty felawys y^{t} hathe be inclynȳg to thē y^{t} hathe be your hold adu'ſarys The blyſſyd trenyte haue yow in hys kepyng Wretȳ in haſt y^{e} Sat^{r}day nex be fore ſēt Margarete.

Be yours,

M. P.

11 ½ by 3 ½.

LETTER X.

To the right wurchepfull S^{r}
and my goode mayſt^{r} my mayſt^{r}
Iohn Paſton be this deliv^{r}ed.

REUR^{E}NT and right wurchepfull S^{r} and my gode mayſt^{r} I recomaund me to you p'yng you to wete that ther is reyſed a ſlandrows noyſe in this Countre up on my mayſt^{r} Yelv'ton and you and my mayſt^{r} Alyngton Which I ſuppoſe is do to bryng you ought of the Conceyte of the pepyll For at this day ye ſtand gretly in the Countreys Conceyte It is ſeyde be Heydon, and his diſciples that my mayſt^{r}. Yelv'ton and ye and my mayſt^{r} Alyngton

take heed at by Robert Harmerer and other, ſo that the ſaid Prieſts may have nothing out of their own nor of other mens, but they be ranſacked, and the place is watched both by day and night; the Prieſts think right long till they (*have*) tidings from you. At the reverence of God beware how ye go and ride, for it is told me that ye be threatened of them that be naughty fellows, that hath been inclining to them, that hath been your old Adverſaries.

The bleſſed Trinity have you in his keeping. Written in haſte, the Saturday next before Saint Margaret.

By your,

MARGARET PASTON.

Saturday,
18th of July, 1461.
1 E. IV.

LETTER X.

To the right worſhipful Sir, and my good Maſter, my Maſter John Paſton, be this delivered.

REVEREND and right worſhipful Sir, and my good Maſter, I recommend me to you, praying you to weet that there is raiſed a ſlanderous noiſe in this Country upon my Maſter Yelverton, and you, and my Maſter Alyngton, which I ſuppoſe is done to bring you out of the conceit of the people, for at this day ye ſtand greatly in the country's conceit.

It is ſaid by Heydon and his Diſciples that my Maſter Yelverton, and ye, and my Maſter Alyngton, ſhould have do (*made*)

Alyngton ſhuld haue do oon Sr John Tartyſſale pſon of the Eſt-churche of [1] Warham and Chapeleyn to the [2] pror of Walſyngh'm to put in to the plemēt a bille of diu's Treſons don be my [3] lord of Norwich Sr Thomas Tudenh'm and John Heydon And ye ſhuld have ſet to yor Seales And if that Heydon had be vj howrs fro the plement lenger than he was ther had be g'anted an oyer detrmyner to have enquer of hem &c. This was told yeſtrday in right wurchepful Audience and a mong the Thrifties men of this Countre And thei ſeyd right ſhrewedly For my lord of Norwich hath ſo flatered the lay pepill as he hath redyn a bought his viſitacon that he hath thers herts Wherfor and it pleaſe you to lete me have knowlech what ye wuld I ſhuld ſey to it wher as I her any ſuch langage I wull do my pte and have do hed toward as I have thought in my Conceytes beſt &c. And if ther be any other ſrvyce that ye wull comaund me I am and wull be redy at yowr Comaundment wt the grace of god How eur have you in his blyſſed kepyng Wretyn at Wighton in haſt on Sent James Day.

Be yor ſrvūte,

[4] James Gloys.

9 by 4 ½.
Paper Mark,
An Anchor.
Pl. xxii. N° 12.

This Letter appears to have been written in 1461, as it inſinuates a ſuſpicion of treaſon againſt Sir Thomas Todenham, &c. who was a faithful Lancaſtrian, and ſuffered on the block, for correſponding with the late Queen, in the February following the date of this Letter.

[1] There were three Churches in the pariſh of Warham.

[2] Thomas Hunt was admitted Prior in 1437.

one Sir Thomas Tartyſſale, Parſon of the Eaſt Church of [1] Warham, and Chaplain to the [2] Prior of Walſingham, to put into the Parliament a Bill of divers Treaſons done by my [3] Lord of Norwich, Sir Thomas Todenham, and John Heydon, and (*that*) ye ſhould have ſet (*there*)to your Seals; and if that Heydon had been ſix hours from the Parliament longer than he was, there had been granted an Oyer Determiner to have enquired of them, &c. This was told yeſterday in right worſhipful audience, and among the thriftieſt men of this Country; and they ſaid right ſhrewdly, for my Lord of Norwich hath ſo flattered the Lay people as he hath ridden about his Viſitation, that he hath their hearts; wherefore and (*if*) it pleaſe you to let me have knowledge what ye would I ſhould ſay to it, whereas (*that*) I hear any ſuch language, I will do my part, and have done hitherward as I have thought in my conceit beſt, &c. and if there be any other ſervice that ye will command me, I am and will be ready at your commandment with the grace of God, who ever have you in his bleſſed keeping. Written at Wighton in haſte, on Saint James's Day.

By your Servant,

[4] JAMES GLOYS.

Wighton,
Saturday, 25 July, 1461.
1 E. IV.

[3] Walter Lyhert was declared Biſhop of Norwich by papal proviſion in 1446. He was a man of ſingular wiſdom, and, being of a peaceable diſpoſition, was much beloved by the Citizens.

In 1449 he entertained King Henry VI. at his Palace in Norwich, and being a man of great political abilities was ſent in the ſame year Embaſſador into Savoy.

He died on Whitſunday, 24th of May 1472, and was buried directly before the Rood Loft in his own Cathedral.

[4] Autograph. Pl. xxv. N° 16. He was a Prieſt.

LETTER XI.

To my Wurſchipfull Coyſyn
Margaret Paſton be this
delyv'd in haſte.

I Recomaunde me unto you letyng you witte that yo^{r} Unkyll Iohn Berney is deed whoos ſoule god haue m^{r}cy deſyryng you to ſende for Thom's Holler and enquere of hym wher his goode is and what he is wurthe and that he take goode eede to all ſuche goods as he had bothe meveable and on mevable for I undre ſtande that he is wurthe in money V^{c} marke and in plate to the valwe of other V^{c} marke beſide other goods Wherfor I wolde ye ſchulde not lete hym wete of his diſſeſe unto the tyme that ye had enquered of the ſeide Thom's Holler of all ſuche maters as be a bovyn wreten And whan he hathe enformed you therof than lete hym wete verely that he is deede deſiryng hym that no man come on to his place at Redh'm but hym ſelfe unto the tyme that I come It'm I lete you witte that gret p'te of his goode is at Will'm Tav^{r}ners as I undreſtande Thom's Holler woll telle you Juſtely the trouthe as I ſuppoſe and deſeyre hym on my behalfe that he doo ſoo and ther is writyng therof and

This Letter is not the only one from John Paſton, to his wife, which is directed to his Couſin Margaret Paſton.

He had therefore, I ſuppoſe, at this time ſome particular reaſons for concealing his correſpondence; it might be either for ſome public reaſon on the late change of government, or for ſome private reaſon on his own affairs.

John Berney was the ſecond ſon of John Berney, Eſq. of Reedham, and inherited from his father eſtates in Witchingham; he was uncle to Margaret Paſton, and died in July, 1461.

telle

LETTER XI.

To my worſhipful Couſin Margaret Paſton, be this delivered in haſte.

I Recommend me unto you, letting you weet that your Uncle John Berney is dead, (*on*) whoſe ſoul God have mercy, deſiring you to ſend for Thomas Holler and enquire of him where his good is, and what he is worth, and that he take good heed to all ſuch goods as he had both moveable and unmoveable, for I underſtand that he is worth in money five hundred marks (333*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*) and in plate to the value of other five hundred marks, beſides other goods; wherefore I would ye ſhould not let him weet of his deceaſe unto the time that ye had enquired of the ſaid Thomas Holler of all ſuch matters as be above written, and when he hath informed you thereof, then let him weet verily that he is dead, deſiring him that no man come unto his place at Reedham but himſelf, unto the time that I come.

Item, I let you weet that great part of his good is at William Taverner's as I underſtand. Thomas Holler will tell you juſtly the truth as I ſuppoſe, and deſire him on my behalf that he do ſo, and there is writing thereof; and tell Thomas Holler that

His worth in money and plate was conſiderable for that age, and the caution which was taken in thoſe unſettled times to conceal property, is worthy obſervation.

As Thomas Holler was become, by the deceaſe of John Berney, the only perſon who had knowledge of ſome of his property, the deſire which he expreſſes that his wife ſhould firſt get information, and then acquaint him with his friend's death, ſeems to inſinuate doubts of his honeſty reſpecting the goods, &c. The hint too that he has a written account of them, implies the ſame ſuſpicion.

Autograph. Pl. XXIV. N° 5.

I and

telle Thom's Holler that I and he be executo[r]s named And therfore lete hym take heede that the goods be kept ſaffe And that nobody knowe wher it ſhall lie but ye and Thom's Holler And Thom's Holler as yo[r] Unkyll tolde me is prevy wher all his goode lithe and all his writyng And ſo I wol that ye be prevy to the ſame for caſualte of deethe and ye too ſhal be his executo[r]s for me as longe as ye doo trewly as I trowe verely ye woll Wreten at london the xxviij[t] day of Jule.

J requer yow be of god
cumfort and be not heuy if
ye wil do owth for me

Yowr

John Paſton.

12 by 6.
Paper Mark,
A Coronet.
Pl. xxvi. N° 2.

LETTER XIJ.

To my Wr ſhipful and right gode mayſter Iohn Paſton Squyer.

WURSHIPFUL S[r]e and my right gode mayſter I recomaunde me to zou and h[r]tely I thanke zour gode mayſt[r]ſhip that ze liked to ſende my mayſt[r] zour Sone to Sporle w[t] ſuych felaſhip as ze dede for which I am ev[r] bounde to doo zou ſ[r]vice p'yeng zou of zour gode contenuaunce S[r]e the cauſe why

I and he be executors named, and therefore let him take heed that the goods be kept ſafe, and that no body know where it ſhall lie but ye and Thomas Holler; and Thomas Holler, as your Uncle told me, is privy where all his good lieth and all his writings, and ſo I will that ye be privy to the ſame for caſualty of death, and ye two ſhall be his executors for me as long as ye do truly, as I trow verily ye will. Written at London the 28th day of July.

I require you be of good comfort and be not heavy, if ye will do ought for me.

Your,

JOHN PASTON.

London,
Tueſday, 28 July, 1461.
1 E. IV.

LETTER XII.

To my worſhipful and right good Maſter John Paſton, Eſq.

WORSHIPFUL Sir and my right good Maſter, I recommend me to you, and heartily I thank your good maſterſhip that ye liked to ſend my Maſter your Son to Sporle with ſuch fellowſhip as ye did, for which I am ever bound to do you ſervice, praying you of your good continuance.

Sir,

why J kam no^{t} was this I was falle ſeek w^{t} an [1] axez and truly that cauſed me that J and my felaſhip taryed and ſo be cauſe therofſe I cauſed my lady to Wryte a ſpecyall l're to my lord Scales but for al that Blake hath hoom the corn in my lady of Suff' name And the cauſe why I ſent no wurd of my ſeknes was that I wuld no^{t} myn enmy ſhuld be reioyſed be the knowlych of my ſekneſſe ſo god help me the felaſhip that was redy to goo was right ſory that thei myght not goo furth^{r} w^{t} me And my [2] lordes and my ladyes wyl was that thei ſhuld have goon furth^{r} but if I had been heil and no^{t} ſeek there ſhuld have kome a w^{t}ſhipful felaſhip out of Suff' of ſo litel Warnyng but truly I lay ſeek at Jpeſwych of the the Axcez bothe Sunday and Monday but ſ'e ſyn ze have ſhewed me ſo kyndely zour gode mayſterſhip I p'ye zou I may have your felaſhip redy at a nothir tyme to helpe to execute a cōmyſſion touchyng Blake and that thei may be redy w^{t}inne ij dayez after ze have Warnyng and ſ'e my ſ'vice is redy to zou at alle tymys as ze ſhewe me gret cauſe to doo zou ſ'vice Wreten at Thelton the Wednyſday next before ſeynt Bertilmew day in haſte.

Your ſ'vūt,

[3] Will'm Jenney.

11 ½ by 4 ½.

We have here an inſtance of the tumultuous and deſperate manner in which Diſtreſſes were made; in this caſe, Corn ſeems to have been the object. It appears that another entry of the ſame kind was intended. It is not ſaid which of his Sons J. Paſton had ſent.

[1] An Axes, or Acceſs, from the French word Acces, means the fit or paroxyſm of a diſeaſe, and in this place moſt probably may be conſidered as an Ague fit.

[2] I ſuppoſe theſe mean the Duke and Ducheſs of Norfolk.

LET.

Sir, the cauſe why I came not was this, I was fallen ſick with an [1] axes *(acceſs)*, and truly that cauſed me that I and my fellowſhip tarried, and ſo becauſe thereof I cauſed my Lady to write a ſpecial Letter to my Lord Scales, but for all that Blake hath home the Corn in my Lady of Suffolk's name; and the cauſe why I ſent no word of my ſickneſs was, that I would not mine enemy ſhould be rejoiced by the knowledge of my ſickneſs, ſo God help me; the fellowſhip that was ready to go was right ſorry that they might not go farther with me, and my [2] Lord's and my Lady's will was that they ſhould have gone farther; but if I had been hele (*well*) and not ſick there ſhould have come a worſhipful fellowſhip out of Suffolk of ſo little warning, but truly I lay ſick at Ipſwich of the Acceſs both Sunday and Monday; but, Sir, ſince ye have ſhewed me ſo kindly your good maſterſhip, I pray you I may have your fellowſhip ready at another time to help to execute a Commiſſion touching Blake, and that they may be ready within two days after ye have warning, and, Sir, my ſervice is ready to you at all times, as ye ſhew me great cauſe to do you ſervice.

Written at Thelveton, the Wedneſday next before Saint Bartholomew's day (*24th of Auguſt*) in haſte.

Your Servant,

[3] WILLIAM JENNEY.

Thelveton,
Wedneſday, Auguſt,
1461, or 1462.
1 or 2 E. IV.

[3] William Jenney, of Knotiſhall, in Suffolk, was an eminent Lawyer, and in 1477 was made a Judge of the King's Bench; he died in 1483, aged above ſixty years. Autograph. Pl. xxv. N° 10.

I believe this Letter was written in the beginning of the reign of Edward IV.

On the back is written, in an ancient hand.

" A friendly l're of W. Jenney who after became a mortal enemye."

LETTER XIII.

To my right wʳſhypfull and
revrent Maiſtyr Iohn
Paſton at Norwich

RYGHT wʳſhypfull Sʳ and my right honoʳable maiſtʳ I re-comaunde me louly to you And pleſe youre maiſtirſhyp to wete that my maiſtʳ Clement yo're Brothyr and Plater wrot a letter to my mayſtʳ yore Sone yiſtirday the tenure of whych was how ye were entretyd there and as ye deſyredʳ me ſo I enformyd hem the mater along for they wiſt not of it til I told hem and they wrete the more pleynerly inaſmych as a wʳſhypfull man rood the ſame day and bare the letter to my ſeyd maiſtʳ youre ſone the lord Bourgcher is wᵗ the Kynge and my lord Warwyk ſtill in the North, &c. It'm Sʳ thys day cam on Iohn Waynflet from the Kyng ſtreyt weye and he is of myn aqueyntaunce and he teld me there was no voyſe nor ſpekyng aboute the Kyng of that mater. And I teld hym all the mater along hou ye were intretyd whych he wyll put in remẽbraunce in ony place that he cometh in in Suff. or Eſex as he goth homward. For he owyth no good wil to yo're advʳſary. And the ſeyd Waynflet teld me that he knowyth for ſʳteyn that the Kyng cometh not to Northefolk til he hathe been upon the mʳchys.

This Letter was written whilſt the Earl of Warwick was in the North Marches, endeavouring to manage matters with regard to the Scots. He went thither ſoon after the coronation, and before the King had called a Parliament. What the matter was in which J. Paſton had been ſo ſtrangely treated does not appear.

The account of his ſon is curious, and ſhews us that in that remote age money was in a certain degree as neceſſary as it would be now, for the bringing a young gentleman properly

LETTER XIII.

To my right worſhipful and reverend Maſter John Paſton, at Norwich.

RIGHT worſhipful and my right honourable Maſter, I recommend me lowly to you, and pleaſe your maſterſhip to weet that my Maſter Clement your brother and Playters wrote a Letter to my maſter your ſon yeſterday, the tenor of which was how ye were entreated there, and as ye deſired me, ſo I informed them the matter along, for they wiſt (*knew*) not of it till I told them, and they wrote the more plainerly (*plainly*), in as much as a worſhipful man rode the ſame day, and bare the letter to my ſaid maſter your ſon.

The Lord Bourchier is with the King, and my Lord Warwick ſtill in the North, &c.

Item, Sir this day came one John Waynfleet from the King ſtrait way, and he is of mine acquaintance; and he told me there was no voice nor ſpeaking about the King of that matter, and I told him all the matter along how ye were entreated, which he will put in remembrance in any place that he cometh in in Suffolk or Eſſex as he goeth homewards, for he oweth no goodwill to your adverſary. And the ſaid Waynfleet told me that he knoweth for certain the King cometh not into Norfolk till

properly forward amongſt his equals. It appears from ſeveral of theſe Letters that J. Paſton kept his children rather too ſtrait for a man of his birth and fortune.

Autograph. Pl. v. N° 18.

The impreſſion on the ſeal is a Croſs flory. Pl. xiv. N° 21.

William Viſcount Bourchier, &c. ſon of Henry Earl of Eſſex, who married Elizabeth, ſiſter of Richard Plantagenet Duke of York, by which marriage he became Uncle to Edward IV.

m'rchys of Walys and ſo there is no ſ'teynte of hyſe comyng thys many dayez he teld me he lefte the Kyng w^t a ſmal felaſhyp aboute hym And I enqueryd hym of the gyding of my mayſtyr yore Sone whiche he comendyd gretly and ſeyd that he ſtood well inconſeyt and dayly ſhuld increſe and he was well in aqueyntaunce and be lovyd w^t Ientilmen aboute the Kyng, but he ſeyd there ſhal no thyng hurte hym but yo're ſtreytneſſe of mony to hym for w^toute he have mony in hyſe p'ſe ſo as he may reſonably ſpende among hem ellys they wyll not ſette by hem and there be Ientilmen Sones of leſſe reputacion that hath mony more lyb^ral X tymez than he hath and ſoo in that they ſeyd Waynflet ſeyd it were full neceſſary for you to remẽbre &c. As for tydyngs here bee noon newe &c. J truſte I ſhal brynge you a lette^r from my mayſt^r yo're Sone or thanne I come for whych I ſhal rather thanne fayle abyde on day the lenger And Ihu haue you my right hono^rable maiſt^r in hyſe m^rcyfull gov^rnaunce and p'ſ^rve you from adv^rſyte wretyn at london on ſeynt Bertylmewys evyn

I can ſpeke w^t noo man but that thynke the gydyng of yo're adv^rſary hath been in many cauſez ryght ſtraunce and as it is ſopoſyd that he ſhal undyrſtonde at the p^rlament but for gods ſake haue men Jnow aboute yow for ye undyrſtonde is on man^rly dyſpoſecion.

Youre bedeman and ſ^rvaunt,

John Ruſſe.

T E T=

he hath been upon the Marches of Wales, and ſo there is no certainty of his coming this many days; he told me he left the King with a ſmall fellowſhip about him.

And I enquired (*of*) him of the guiding of my maſter your ſon, which he commended greatly, and ſaid that he ſtood well in conceit, and daily ſhould increaſe; and he was well in acquaintance, and beloved with gentlemen about the King; but he ſaid there ſhall nothing hurt him, but your ſtraitneſs of money to him, for without he have money in his purſe, ſo as he may reaſonably ſpend among them, elſe they will not ſet by him; and there be Gentlemen's Sons of leſs reputation, that hath money more liberal ten times than he hath; and ſo in that the ſaid Waynfleet ſaid it were full neceſſary for you to remember, &c.

As for tidings here be none new, &c. I truſt I ſhall bring you a letter from my Maſter your ſon, or than (*when*) I come, for which I ſhall rather than fail abide one day the longer; and Jeſu have you, my right honourable Maſter, in his merciful governance, and preſerve you from adverſity. Written at London on Saint Bartholomew's even.

I can ſpeak with no man but that think the guiding of your adverſary hath been in many cauſes right ſtrange, and as it is ſuppoſed, that he ſhall underſtand at the Parliament, but for God's ſake have men enough about you, for ye underſtand his unmannerly diſpoſition.

Your beadſman and ſervant,

JOHN RUSSE.

London, Sunday,
23 Auguſt, 1461.
1 E. IV.

LET-

LETTER XIII.

To my rythg revrent and worchypfoll Fader Iohn Paſton eſquyer dwellyng jn Heylyſdon be thys letter delyueryd jn haſte.

MOST revrent and worſchepful Fadyr I rekomawnd me hertyly and ſubmytt me lowlely to your good Fadrhood beſechyng yow for cheryte of yowr dayly blyſſyng I beſeche yow to hold me aſcewſyd that I ſente to yowe none erſte' no wrythgtyng for I kowd not ſpede to myn Intent the maters that ye ſent to me for I haue laboryd dayly my lord of [1] Eſſexe treſerer of ynglond to haue meuyd the Kyng bothe of the maner Deddh'm And of the byll copye of the corte rolle eu'ye mornyng ore he went to the Kyng and often tymys jnq'eryd of hym And he had meuyd the Kyng in theſe maty's he anſwerȳd me naye ſeyyng it was no tyme and ſeyd he wold it war oſſe fayne ſpedd os I myſelfe offed tymys de layding me that jn trouthe I thowt to haue ſend yowe word that I felyd by hym that he was not wyllyng to meue the Kyng ther in nevrthe leſſe I lawberyd to hym contynually and prayed Barronners hys man to remembyr hym of it I told offten tyms to my ſeyd Lord that J had a man

This is a moſt curious Letter, and exhibits an undiſguiſed picture of great men in the fifteenth century.

J. Paſton ſhews himſelf a perſevering advocate, and my Lord of Eſſex a true courtier. He at laſt mentions the buſineſs to the King, and informs J. Paſton of the King's converſation on the ſubject, which certainly redounds much to his Majeſty's honour. The hint from Berners, my Lord Treaſurer's man, is cleverly introduced, and the manner of making the compliment to the Earl of Eſſex is ingeniouſly contrived; and ſhews Berners to be one who underſtood his buſineſs well.

teryyn

LETTER XIV.

To my right reverend and worſhipful Father John Paſton, Eſquire, dwelling in Helleſdon, be this Letter delivered in haſte.

MOST reverend and worſhipful Father, I recommend me heartily, and ſubmit me lowlily to your good fatherhood, beſeeching you for charity of your daily bleſſing; I beſeech you to hold me excuſed that I ſent to you none erſt (*no earlier*) no writing, for I could not ſpeed to mine intent, that ye ſent to me for. I have laboured daily my Lord of [1] Eſſex Treaſurer of England, to have moved the King, both of the Manor *(of)* Dedham, and of the Bill, copied of the Court Roll, every morning afore he went to the King, and often times enquired of him, and *(if)* he had moved the King in theſe matters; he anſwered me nay, ſaying it was no time, and ſaid he would it were as fain ſped as I myſelf; ſo oft times delaying me that in truth I thought to have ſent you word, that I feeled by him that he was not willing to move the King therein; nevertheleſs I laboured to him continually, and prayed Baronners (*Berners*) his man to remember him of it. I told often times to my ſaid Lord that I

He was moſt probably a relation of the Earl's family, as his brother John Bourchier married Margery a daughter of Sir Thomas Berners of Weſt Horſeley, in Surry.

[1] Henry Viſcount Bourchier, Lord Treaſurer of England, was created Earl of Eſſex in 1461, in the firſt year of the reign of Edward IV. He was a man of great knowledge and application to buſineſs, and at different times filled moſt of the great offices of ſtate. His death happened in 1483. He was uncle to the King by his marriage with a ſiſter of Richard Plantagenet, Duke of York, the King's father.

had

teryyn jn town that I ſchuld a ſente to yow for othyr Sundry maters and he teryid for no thyng but that J mythg ſend yowe by hym an anſwer of the ſeyd matys othyr tyms beſechyng hym to ſpede me in theys matys for thys cawſe that ye ſchuld thynke no defawte jn me for remembyng jn the ſeyd maters And nowe of late (I rememb'yng hym of the ſame matr) jnq'ryd if he had mevyd the Kyngs Hythgnes ther in And he anſweryd me yt he hadde felte and meuyd the Kyng ther in reherſyng the Kyngys Anſwer y'in how yt when he had mevyd the Kyng in the ſeyd manr of Dedh'm beſechyng hym to be yowr good lord ther in konſyderyng the ſervyſe and trewe part that ye haue done and owthg to hym and jn eſpeſyal the Rygth that ye have therto he ſeyd he wold be your good lord therin As he wold be to the poreſt man jn jnglond he wold hold wt yowe jn yowr Rygth and as for favor he wyll nogth be under ſtand yt. he ſchal ſchewe favor mor to one man then to anothyr nowgth to on jn Inglond And as for the bille copyd of the cort Rolle when he mevyd to hym of it hc ſmylyd and ſeyd yt Suche a bylle ther was ſeyyng yt ye wold an opp'ſſyd Sundroys of yowr Contremen of worchypfull men and the for he kepyd it ſtyll neur the leſſe he ſeyd he ſchuld loke it uppe jn haſte and he ſchuld haue it Baronners undertoke to me twyes ore thryes yt he ſculd So a remembr'd hys lord and maſtr yt J ſchuld au had it wt inne ij or iij dayes he is often tyms abſent and therfor I haue it nowthg yyt when I kan gete it I ſchall ſend it yowe And of the Kyngs mowth hys name yt take it hym. I ſcend you home Pekok a geyn he is nor for me god ſend grace yt he may do yow good

had a man tarrying in town, that I ſhould have ſent to you for other ſundry matters, and he tarryed for nothing, but that I might ſend you by him an anſwer of the ſaid matters; other times beſeeching him to ſpeed me in thoſe matters for this cauſe, that ye ſhould think no default in me for remembering in the ſaid matters.

And now of late, I remembering him of the ſame matter, inquired if he had moved the King's Highneſs therein, and he anſwered me, that he had felt and moved the King therein, rehearſing the King's anſwer therein, how that when he had moved the King in the ſaid manor of Dedham, beſeeching him to be your good Lord therein, conſidering the ſervice and true heart that ye have done, and owe to him, and in eſpecial the right that ye have thereto; he ſaid, he would be your good Lord therein, as he would be to the pooreſt man in England, he would hold with you in your right, and as for favour he will not be underſtood, that he ſhall ſhew favour more to one man than to another, not to one in England.

And as for the Bill, copied of the court roll, when he moved to him of it, he ſmiled, and ſaid, that ſuch a bill there was, ſaying that ye would have oppreſſed ſundry of your countrymen of worſhipful men, and therefore he kept it ſtill, nevertheleſs he ſaid he ſhould look it up in haſte, and ye ſhould have it.

Baronners undertook to me twice or thrice, that he ſhould ſo have remembered his Lord and Maſter, that I ſhould have had it within two or three days; he is often times abſent, and therefore I have it not yet, when I can get it, I ſhall ſend it you, and of the King's mouth, his name that take it him.

I ſend you home Peacock again, he is not for me, God ſend

ſervyſe (that be extymacion js not lykelye) ye ſchall haue knowleche aftyrward how he hathe demenyd hym her w^t me I wold ſavyng yowr dypleſure that ye were delyv'd of hym for he ſchalle neu^r do yow profyte ner worchyp I ſuppoſe ye underſtand y^t the monye that I hadde of yowe att Londun maye not jndur w^t me tyll that the Kyng goo in to Walys an kome ageyn for I underſtand it ſchall be long or he kome ageyn wher for I haue ſent to londun to myn onkyl Clement to gete an C s. of Xpofyr Hanſom yowr ſervaunt and ſene it me be my ſeyd ſ^rvaunt and myn herneys w^t it whyche I lefte at Lundun to make klene J beſeche yowe not to be dyſpleſyd w^t it for I kowd make non othyr cheyſaunce but I ſchuld a boruyed it of a ſtrange man Sum of my felawys who I ſuppoſe ſchold not lyke yowe And ye herd of it a nothyr tyme I ame jn ſuerte wher as I ſchall have a nothyr maun jn the ſtede of Pekoke my lord of Eſtſexe ſeythe he wyll do as myche for yowē as for any eſquyer jn Jnglond and Beronners hys man telht me ſeyyg yowr fadyr js myche be holdyng to my lord for he lovyth hym well.

Bernners mevyd me ons and ſeyd y^t ye muſt nedys do ſum wate for my lord and hys and I ſeyd I woſt well y^t ye wold do for hym y^t laye jn yowre powar and he ſeyd y^t y' was á lytyl mony be twyxe yowe and a Iantylman of Eſtſexe callyd Dyrward ſeyyng y^t y' is as myche be wern my ſeyd lord and the ſeyd Iantylman of the wyche mony he deſieryth yowr part It is talkyd her howe y^t ye and Howard ſchuld a ſtrevyn togueder on y^e [2] ſcher daye and on of Howard's men ſchuld a ſtrekyn yow

[2] This was probably occaſioned by ſome election or other diſpute which aroſe at the county court.

grace that he may do you good ſervice, that by eſtimation is not likely; ye ſhall have knowledge afterward how he hath demeaned him here with me; I would, ſaving your diſpleaſure, that ye were delivered of him, for he ſhall never do you profit nor worſhip.

I ſuppoſe ye underſtand that the money that I had of you at London may not indure with me till that the King go into Wales and come again, for I underſtand it ſhall be long ere he come again, wherefore I have ſent to London to mine Uncle Clement to get an hundred Shillings of Chriſtopher Hanſon your Servant, and ſend it me by my ſaid Servant, and mine harneſs with it, which I left at London to make clean.

I beſeech you not to be diſpleaſed with it, for I could make none other cheviſance (*contract*), but I ſhould have borrowed it of a ſtrange man, ſome of my fellows, who I ſuppoſe ſhould not like you, and ye heard of it another time. I am in ſurety whereas I ſhall have another man in the ſtead of Peacock.

My Lord of Eſſex ſaith he will do as much for you as for any Eſquire in England, and Baronners his man telleth me, ſaying, "your Father is much beholden to my Lord, for he loveth him well;" Bernners moved me once, and ſaid that ye muſt needs do ſomewhat for my Lord and his; and I ſaid, I wiſt well, that ye would do for him that lay in your power; and he ſaid that there was a little money betwixt you and a Gentleman of Eſſex called Dyrward, ſaying, that there is as much between my ſaid Lord and the ſaid Gentleman, of the which money he deſireth your part.

It is talked here how that ye and Howard ſhould have ſtriven together on the [a] Shire day, and one of Howard's men ſhould

twyeſs w^t. a dagere and ſoo ye ſchuld a ben hurt but for a good dobelet y^t ye hadde on at that tyme Blyſſyd be god that ye hadde it on No mor I wryth to yower good faderhod at thys tym but all myghty God haue yowe in hys kepyng and ſend yowe vyttorye of yowr elmyes and worſchyp jn creſſyng to yowr lyuys endyn Wrytyn at [3] Lewys on Seynt Bertylmwes Eve.

Be yowr ſ^rvaūt and elder ſone,

[4] John Paſton.

11 ½ by 17,
Paper Mark,
a Croſs.
Pl. xxvii. N° 12.

[3] The date of this Letter is, in ſome meaſure, aſcertained by the place from which it is written, as the King in the ſummer of 1462 took a progreſs through ſeveral parts of his kingdom; namely to Canterbury, Sandwich, Lewes, &c. and ſo along the coaſt to Southampton, from whence he proceeded to the marches of Wales.

LETTER XII.

To hys rythe revrent
and Worchypfwll brod^r
Iohn Paſton.

RYTHE rev^rent and worchypfwll brod^r I recomawnde me to yowr good brod^rhood deſieryng to herre of zour Welfar and good p'ſp^rite the gwyche I p'y god encreſſe to his pleſwr and zowr herts heſſe Certyfyyng zow y^t I have ſpok w^t Iohn Rwſſe and Playt^r ſpok w^t him bothe on Fryday be for ſeynt bar-

have ſtricken you twice with a dagger, and ſo ye ſhould have been hurt, but for a good doublet, that ye had on at that time; bleſſed be God, that ye had it on. No more I write to your good fatherhood at this time, but Almighty God have you in his keeping, and ſend you victory of your Enemies, and worſhip increaſing to your life's ending.

Written at [3] Lewes, on Saint Bartholomew's Even.

By your Servant and elder Son,

[4] JOHN PASTON.

Lewes, in Suſſex,
23 Auguſt, 1461, or 1462.
1 or 2 E. IV.

[4] Autograph. Pl. IV. N° 9.

LETTER XV.

To his right reverend and worſhipful Brother John Paſton.

RIGHT reverend and worſhipful brother, I recommend me to your good brotherhood, deſiring to hear of your welfare and good proſperity, the which I pray God increaſe to his pleaſure and your heart's eaſe, certifying you that I have ſpoken with John Ruſſe, and Playters ſpoke with him both *(alſo)* on Friday before Saint Bartholomew; he told us of Howard's guiding,

barthelmw he tolde vs of Howards gydyng gwyche mad vs rythe ſory tyl we herde y^e cōcluſion y^t ze hadde non harme Alſo I und^rſtond by W. Pekok y^t my nevew hadde knowleche yer of alſo up on Sat^rday nexſt be for ſeynt barthelmwe in y^e kyngs howſe not w^t ſtandyng up on y^e ſame day Play^r and I wryte letters on to him reherſyng al the mat^r for cāe if yer wer ony q^eſtionys mevyd to hym yer of y^t he xwlde telle y^e trowthe in cas y^t y^e qweſtions wer mevyd by ony Worchypfwll man and namyd my lord [1] bowcher for my lord bowcher was w^t y^e kyng at y^t tym I fele by W. Pekok y^r my nevew is not zet v^rily aqweyntyd in y^e kyngs howſe nor w^t y^e officers of y^e kyngs howſe he is not takyn as non of y^t howſe for y^e coks be not charged to ſerue hym nor y^e [2] ſewer to gyue hym no dyche for y^e ſewer wyll not tak no men no dyſchys till yey be comawndyd by y^e cownt^rroller alſo he is not Aq^eyntyd w^t no body but w^t [3] Weks and Weks ad told hym y^t he wold bryng hym to y^e kyng but he hathe not zet do ſoo Wherfor it were beſt for hym to tak hys leve and cū hom till ze hadd ſpok w^t Swm body to helpe hym forthe for he is not bold y now to put forthe hym ſelfe bur yan I conſyderyd y^t if he xwld now cū hom y^e kyng wold thyng y^r wan he xwld doo hym ony ſ^rvie ſō wer y^t yan ze wold have hym hom y^e qwyche xwld cāe hym not to be hadde in fauor And alſo men wold thynke y^t he wer put owte

This Letter appears to have been written in the beginning of the reign of Edward IV. at the time that J. Paſton had a ſon attending in the King's houſe in expectations of ſome appointment therein. We have here a curious account of the method of proceeding, and are likewiſe informed, that attendance there could not be without expence.

The behaviour of Howard here mentioned was, I believe, occaſioned by ſome election diſputes.

of

guiding, which made us right ſorry, till we heard the concluſion that ye had none harm.

Alſo I underſtand by William Peacock that my Nephew had knowledge thereof alſo upon Saturday next before Saint Bartholomew, in the King's Houſe; notwithſtanding upon the ſame day Playters and I wrote Letters unto him, rehearſing all the matter for cauſe if there were any queſtions moved to him thereof, that he ſhould tell the truth, in caſe that the queſtions were moved by any worſhipful man, and (*we*) named my Lord [1]Bourchier, for my Lord Bourchier was with the King at that time.

I feel by William Peacock that my Nephew is not yet verily acquainted in the King's Houſe, nor with the Officers of the King's Houſe; he is not taken as none of that Houſe, for the Cooks be not charged to ſerve him, nor the [2] Sewer to give him no diſh, for the Sewer will not take no men no diſhes 'till they be commanded by the Controller; alſo he is not acquainted with nobody but with [3] Wykes, and Wykes had told him that he would bring him to the King, but he hath not yet done ſo; wherefore it were beſt for him to take his leave and come home, till ye had ſpoken with ſome body to help him forth, for he is not bold enough to put forth himſelf; but then I conſidered that if he ſhould now come home, the King would think that when he ſhould do him any ſervice, it were that then ye would have him home, the which ſhould cauſe him not to be had in favour; and alſo men would think that he were put out of ſervice. Alſo

[1] William Viſcount Bourchier, eldeſt ſon of Henry Bourchier, who was created Earl of Eſſex in June 1461, he was Couſin to Edward IV. and died in the life-time of his father.

[2] An officer who had the ordering of the diſhes, &c.

[3] John Wykes was an uſher of the King's chamber and a friend and couſin of J. Paſton's.

William

of ſ^r^vic Alſo W. Pekok tellythe me y^t his mony is ſpent and not ryoteſly but wyſly and diſcretly for y^e coſts is gret^t in y^e kyng's howſe qwen he rydythe yan ze wend it hadde be as Wyllam Pekok can tell zow And yer' wee mwſt gett hym j C^s at y^e leſt As by Wyllam Pekoks ſeyyng and zet y^t will be to lytill And I wot well we kan not get xl^d of Xptifyr Hanſwm ſo I xall be fayn to lend it hym of myn owne ſilu^r if I knew v^tily zo^r entent wer y^t he xwld cū hom I wold ſend hym non Ther' I wyll doo as me thynkithe ze xwld be beſt pleſyd and y^t me thynkythe is to ſend him y^e ſilu^r yer for i p'y zow haſtely as ze may ſend me azen v mark and y^e remnawnte I trow I xall get up on Xpofir Hanſwm and lwket I p'y zow ſend me it as haſtely as ze may for I xall leve my ſelfe rythe bare and i p'y zow ſend me A lett^r how ze woll y^t he xull be demenyd Wrytyn on twſday aft^r Seynt Barthelmwe &c. Xps vos cōſervet!

By

[4] Clement Paſton.

11 ½ by 8 ½.

[4] Clement Paſton was a younger brother of J. Paſton. Autograph. Pl. II. N° 22.

William Peacock telleth me that his money is ſpent, and not riotouſly, but wiſely, and diſcreetly, for the coſts is greater in the King's Houſe when he rideth then ye wend it had been, as William Peacock can tell you; and therefore we muſt get him one hundred Shillings at the leaſt, as by William Peacock's ſaying, and yet that will be too little, and I wot well we cannot get forty pence of Chriſtopher Hanſon, ſo I ſhall be fain to lend it him of mine own ſilver; if I knew verily your intent were that he ſhould come home, I would ſend him none; therefore I will do as me thinketh ye ſhould be beſt pleaſed, and that me thinketh is to ſend him the ſilver; therefore I pray you (*as*) haſtily as ye may ſend me again five marks (3*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*) and the remanent I trow I ſhall get upon Chriſtopher Hanſon and Loket. I pray you ſend me it as haſtily as ye may, for I ſhall leave my ſelf right bare, and I pray you ſend me a Letter how ye will that he ſhall be demeaned. Written on Tueſday after Saint Bartholomew, &c. Chriſtus vos conſervet!

By

CLEMENT PASTON.

Auguſt,
about 1461, or 1462,
1 or 2 E. IV.

LETTER XVI.

To the right revrent
and wurchepfull Sr and
my gode mayſtr. John Paſton eſquyer.

RIGHT revrent and wurchepfull Sr I recomaud me to yor gode mayſtrſhep P'yng you to wete yt I was at Blakkes and ſpake wt his wiffe and ſhe ſeth he was not at hame this iij weks he ridith up ye Countre to take accompts of Balys and yt yis day ſevennyght he ſhuld haue ſatyn in Cayſtr by you upon accounts and fro thens he ſhuld haue redyn to lynne And yt he ſhall be at home un Monday at nyght next comyng Wherfor I haue left my heraund wt her but ſhe ſeth yt he ſhall not mown comyn to you for my lady haue ſent for hym in gret haſt bothyn be a lettr and be a tokyn to comyn to her as haſtly as he may notwtſtandyng ſhe ſhall do the herand to hym As for Yelvton I dede a gode fele to enquer of yemmys Skynnr whan ye ſeid Yelvton ſhuld go to london he ſeid not this ſevynnyght he cowde not tell what day till he had ſpokyn wt his Son his Sone ſhuld come to hym or his maſtr ſhuld ridyn I ſhall enquer mor at Walſyngh'm And for godds loue be not to longe fro London

This Letter contains little matter of curioſity, and had it not been for the mention of the Duke of Glouceſter's being to have Caiſter, I ſhould not have inſerted it.

Every Anecdote of this Prince, of whoſe private affairs ſo little is known, the Hiſtorian will be thankful for.

Blake ſeems to have been concerned in taking accounts of Goods imported or exported, on account of the duties paid to the Crown.

LETTER XVI.

To the right reverend and worſhipful Sir, and my good Maſter John Paſton, Eſquire.

RIGHT reverend and worſhipful Sir, I recommend me to your good maſterſhip, praying you to weet that I was at Blakes and ſpake with his Wife, and ſhe ſaith he was not at home this three weeks, he rideth up the Country to take accounts of Bales, and that this day ſev'night he ſhould have ſate in Caiſter by you upon accounts, and from thence he ſhould have ridden to Lynn, and that he ſhall be at home on Monday at night next coming; wherefore I have left my errand with her; but ſhe ſaith that he ſhall not mown coming *(be able to come)* to you, for my Lady have ſent for him in great haſte, both by a Letter and by a token to come to her, as haſtily as he may, notwithſtanding ſhe ſhall do the errand to him.

As for Yelverton I did a good feel to enquire of James Skinner when the ſaid Yelverton ſhould go to London; he ſaid not this ſev'night, he could not tell what day till he had ſpoken with his Son, his Son ſhould come to him ere his Maſter ſhould ride; I ſhall enquire more at Walſingham; and for God's love be not

We are here alſo informed of ſome diſagreement ſubſiſting between John Paſton and his Mother Dame Agnes Paſton.

On the back of this Letter in a hand of that time, is the following Memorandum, &c. which aſcertains the date.

"Rico Calle p ord'm b'm p ij annis t'minatis ad mīc A° primo r. r. E. iiij . . . . xxvj^{s}. viijd."

Autograph. Pl. xxv. N° 16.

for men ſeyn ther as I haue be y^{t} my lord of Glowcetir ſhuld haue Cayſt^{r} And y'is gret noyſe of this revell y^{t} was don in Suffolk be Yelv^{r}ton and Ieney And yo^{r} wele willers thynkyn y^{t} if thei myght p'vayle in this thei wold attempt you in other but ſeas ther pore and malyce and p'ſerve you from all evill And at y^{e} reu^{r}ence of god lete ſū int^{r}p'con go a twix you and my maſtres yo^{r} mod^{r} or ye go to London and all y^{t} ye do ſhall ſpede the bett^{r} for ſhe is ſet on gret malyce and eu^{y} man y^{t} ſhe ſpekith w^{t} knowith her hert and it is like to be a fowle noyſe all y^{e} countre w^{t} aught it be ſone ſeſid Alſo S^{r} it is told me that my lord of Norfolk is Comyn to Framȳgh'm And y^{t} ye be gretly Comendyd ī his howſhold therfor it wer wele do me ſemyth y^{t} ye ſpake w^{t} hym The holy Trynyte kepe you Wretyn at Norwich y^{e} Thurſday next aft^{r} Sent Mathewe.

Yo^{r} pore Preſt,

James Gloys.

11 ½ by 6 ¾.

Paper Mark,
Bull's Head and Star.
Pl. VIII. N° 2.

Seal:
A Roſe.
Pl. XIV. N° 5.

too long from London, for men ſay there, as I have been (*informed*) that my Lord of Glouceſter ſhould have Caiſter, and there is great noiſe of this revel that was done in Suffolk by Yelverton and Jenney; and your well-willers think that if they might prevail in this, they would attempt you in others, but ceaſe their power and malice, and preſerve you from all evil, and at the reverence of God let ſome interpoſition go a-twixt you and my miſtreſs your Mother ere ye go to London, and all that ye do ſhall ſpeed the better, for ſhe is ſet on great malice, and every man that ſhe ſpeaketh with, knoweth her heart, and it is like to be a foul noiſe (*over*) all the Country without it be ſoon ceaſed.

Alſo Sir it is told me, that my Lord of Norfolk is coming to Framlingham, and that ye be greatly commended in his houſehold, therefore it were well done, me ſeemeth that ye ſpake with him.

The Holy Trinity keep you. Written at Norwich, the Thurſday after St. Matthew.

Your poor Prieſt,

JAMES GLOYS.

Norwich,
Thurſday, 24th of September.
1461. 1 E. IV.

LET-

LETTER XVII.

To owr truſty and enterly beloved Servauut Iohn Paſton Eſquyr.

The deuke of Norff.

RYGHT welbeloved Servaunt y grete yow hertly welle ſertefyng that we ſhulle be at fulle age on Fryday nexſt comyng wherfor wele Cõſayled be the lordes of owr Cõſayle and Oder of owr Cõſayle that ye on of owr Servaunts of howſholde w^t^. Oder be w^t^. us at London on Fryday or Saterday nexſt comyng at the ffurdeſt too a cõpanye us thaun too owr Worſhyp for we ſhull have thaun levery of owr landes and Offyces and that ye ffayle us not as ye woll have owr goodlordeſhyp in tyme comyng And alſo that ye doo warne owr [1] ffeede men And Servaunts ſuche as be nye too yow that they be ther thaun in owr leverey y wreton the xij day of October.

[2] Norff.

12 by 4 ½.

John Mowbray, Duke of Norfolk, ſucceeded his father in 1461, 1 E. IV. and I ſhould ſuppoſe came at age very ſoon after, for in November, 1462, he by the King's command was to keep his Chriſtmas at his Caſtle of Holt in Denbighſhire, when he appears to have been married, and was then moſt probably paſt his twenty-firſt year.

This Letter might, therefore, be written on the 12th of October, 1461, and at lateſt on the ſame day in 1462.

We are here acquainted with the parade and attendance expected by the nobility from their Retainers and Vaſſals on the delivery of their lands, and on their taking poſſeſſion of offices.

LETTER XVII.

To our truſty and entirely beloved Servant John Paſton, Eſq.

The Duke of Norfolk.

RIGHT well-beloved Servant, I greet you heartily well, certifying *(you)* that we ſhall be at full age on riday next coming, wherefore well counſelled by the Lords of our Counſel and other of our Counſel, that ye one of our Servants of houſehold with others be with us at London on Friday or Saturday next coming at the furtheſt to accompany us then to our worſhip, for we ſhall have then livery of our Lands and Offices, and that ye fail us not, as ye will have our good Lordſhip in time coming, and alſo that ye do warn our [1] Feedmen and Servants, ſuch as be nigh to you, that they be there then in our Livery. Written the 12th day of October.

[2] NORFOLK.

Monday,
12 October, 1461.
1 E. IV.

[1] Feedmen were thoſe who held lands by an acknowledgment of any ſuperiority to a higher Lord.

[2] John Mowbray was the laſt Duke of Norfolk of that name, and married Elizabeth daughter of that renowned warrior John Talbot Earl of Shrewſbury; he died ſuddenly at Framlingham Caſtle, in Suffolk, on Wedneſday the 17th of January, 1475. See Letter LXVII. vol. i. p. 187.

Autograph. Pl. IV. N° 3.

LETTER XLIII.

RYCHT Worchefull Maſtr I Recōmend me on to yow &c. ye cauſe of my wrytyng is yis J was at blofeld on ſent Andruys Day wyt ye prſon and he vndrſtode non noder but yt I cam to ſe is Maſtr chepe for it was heſe cheue day and yt I meuyd in to hym of ye lond in ſochewerk how J hard ſey qwan I was in ſochefolk yt Geney mad hys auuant yt he had zon zow and hym a choppe of xx pownd of lond and in contynent he telde me al ye matr bet yan J cowde telle hym and as I cowde vndrſtond in hym be my ſympyl wyt yt he was of knoleche of alle y matr for he ſeyd yt yelurton cam don fro ye benche and plete ye matr and for cauſe ye wer to laches and cam not in tyme ye matr yede a mys and ſo I vndrſtode be hym yt he is dyſpoſyd to excuſe yelurton in al mat'ys rather yan yow but neur de les make good cher to ye perſon as yow ye vndrſtode yt he wer your frend tyl tyme ye haue your in tente but be warr and troſt hym not but make yow ſo ſtorng in lorchepe and in ye lawe yt ye reeke not meche qwdr he be good or bad &c. It' ye be meche be held on to tom's Grene and to Edmund Wydewel brodr to Heu A Fen for yei reporte meche worchepe of your Maſtr chepe in al maters and yt cauſe ye ſubſtans of ye towne to howe yow ſerueſe

Though this Letter has neither addreſs nor ſubſcription it appears to have been written to John Paſton, in the beginning of Edward the Fourth's reign, and the buſineſs it contains ſeems to be relative to Sir John Faſtolf's affairs and will.

Thomas Howys was parſon of Bloſield from about 1460 to 1471, and his cheve-day, or thriving-day, I ſhould ſuppoſe means the day on which he received the profits of his living;

LETTER XVIII.

To my right worſhipful Maſter, John Paſton.

RIGHT worſhipful Maſter, I recommend me unto you, &c. the cauſe of my writing is this, I was at Blofield on Saint Andrew's day (30 *November*) with the parſon, and he underſtood none other but that I came to ſee his maſterſhip, for it was his cheve day; and there I moved unto him of the land in Sochewerk (*Southwark*) how I heard ſay when I was in Suffolk that Jenney made his avaunt that he had given you and him a chop of twenty pound (*worth*) of land; and incontinent (*immediately*) he told me all the matter better than I could tell him; and as I could underſtand in him by my ſimple wit, that he was of knowledge of all the matter, for he ſaid that Yelverton came down from the Bench, and plete (*pleaded*) the matter, and for cauſe ye were ſo laches (*negligent*), and came not in time, the matter yede (*went*) amiſs, and ſo I underſtand by him, that he is diſpoſed to excuſe Yelverton in all matters rather than you, but nevertheleſs make good cheer to the parſon as though ye underſtood that he were your friend, till time ye have your intent, but beware and truſt him not, but make you ſo ſtrong in lordſhip and in the law, that ye reek not (*care not*) much whether he be good or bad, &c.

Item, ye be much beholden unto Thomas Greene and to Edmund Wydeville, brother to Hugh Fenn, for they report much worſhip of your maſterſhip in all matters, that cauſes the. ſub-

living; Saint Andrew's day being now a uſual time for the payment of compoſitions for tythes.

The Writer of this Letter was a friend of J. Paſton, and, from the advice which he here gives him, may be ſuppoſed one who knew mankind.

ferueſe and be wel dyſpoſyd on to yow Maſtrchepe and yat vndr-ſtonde J hev'y day and yf yt pleſe yow qwan we partyt at Norwyche in yowr plaſe ye ſeyd on to me ye wold ſom qat do be my ſympyl a wyſe and yis is myn a wyſe yt in ony wyſe ye make Heuafen and tom's Grene on your conſel yf ye can fyne in yow herte for I dare ſey as J her and vndrſtonde yt yei how yow ryth good well and ſervyſe for a man may her be ye halfe qwat ye hole menyth and y'for for godds lowe remember yow wel in yis matr for and it ſtode on mȳ lyfe J wold do as I awyſe yow &c. It' for howr lords loue goo tharow wt wyll Weſetr and alſo pleſe chrewys as ye thynke in yow hert beſt for to do for it is a Comon prouerbe a man muſt ſumtyme ſet a candel befor ye deuyle and y'for yow it be not aldr moſt mede and p'fytabyl yet of ij harmys ye leſte is to be take It' ye xul oondrſtonde yt ye parſon telde me yt dey wer ſomūd to cum for ye p'bat of ye teſtement at cōuercyon of ſent Powle and y'for J wolde auyſe yow in ony wyſe yt ye xuld vndrſtond ye matr wyſely her ye Com hom for I ſopoſe yt yelurton and he is confydett and acorde to gedr It' qwan I was at Blofeld wt ye prſon y' cam Robert Fyraſs to hym ſeyyng yt he is compeld be ye kyngs cōmycyoners to have harnes aftr is degre and yt yt prſon ſent hym to my Maſtras ye che xuld delyur hym harnes and I vndr-ſtond che wylle not tylle ye com hom but ye xul vndrſtond it is anhalmes dede to do hym good vndrſtondyng is neſeſſyte and nede yt he ſtond in and alſo vndrſtondyng yt he was kynnyes man to

my

ſtance of the town to owe you ſervice, and be well diſpoſed unto your maſterſhip, and that underſtand I every day; and if it pleaſe you, when we parted at Norwich in your place ye ſaid unto me ye would ſomewhat do by my ſimple advice; and this is mine advice, that in any wiſe ye make Hugh Fenn and Thomas Greene on your counſel, if ye can find in your heart, for I dare ſay as I hear and underſtand that they owe you right good will and ſervice, for a man may hear by the half what the whole meaneth; and therefore for God's love remember you well in this matter, for and *(if)* it ſtood on my life I would do as I adviſe you, &c.

Item, for our Lord's love go through with William Worceſter and alſo pleaſe Chrewys as ye think in your heart beſt for to do, for it is a common proverb, "A man muſt ſometimes ſet a candle before the Devil;" and therefore though it be not aldermoſt meet and profitable, yet "of two harms the leaſt is to be taken."

Item, ye ſhall underſtand that the parſon told me that they were ſummoned to come for the probate of the Teſtament at (*the*) Converſion of Saint Paul (25 *January*), and therefore I would adviſe you in any wiſe, that ye ſhould underſtand the matter wiſely ere ye come home, for I ſuppoſe that Yelverton and he is confederate, and accord together.

Item, when I was at Blofield with the parſon, there came Robert Fyraſs (*Ferrers q?*) to him, ſaying that he is compelled by the King's Commiſſioners to have harneſs after his degree, and that the parſon ſent him to my miſtreſs that ſhe ſhould deliver him harneſs, and I underſtand ſhe will not till ye come home, but ye ſhall underſtand it is an alms deed to do him good, underſtanding his neceſſity and need that he ſtand in, and alſo under-

my Maſtr and it is a comon p'uerbe a man xuld kepe fro ye blynde and geuyt to is kyn and heu'ȳ man wyl ſey wel y'of yo mor cauſe he is a gentylman and of is kyne and in gret penur and y'for for ye loue of god remembyr ſeche maters No mor at yis tyme but god have yow in hys kepyng bothe body and ſowle and ſpede yow in yowr maters as wel as wel as J wolde ye xulde do.

9 ½ by 8 ½.
Paper Mark,
Bull's Head and Star.
Pl. VIII. N° 2.

LETTER XJX.

To the ryght Wurſhipfull
Sr and Meyſtr myn Mayſtr
Iohn Paſton ſquier.

RYGHT worſhipfull Sre and Mayſtr I recomaunde me to yow and pleaſe yow that the Chirche of Drayton is or ſhal be reſyngned in haſt in to the byſshopys hands by Sr John Bullok deſyryng yow hertly yt ye lyke I may haue the p'ſentacon of the next Avoydaunce for a newew of myn callyd Sr Reynold Spendlove whiche J truſte y'ore mayſtrſhip wold agree to make in yo'e name and myn as was laſt &c. And Sr pleaſe yow alſo yt I haue hadde divſe communicacons wit Worceſtr ſethe Cryſtmeſſe and I fele by hym otterly that he wole not appoynt

in

ſtanding that he was kinſman to my maſter, and it is a common proverb, "A man ſhould keep from the blind and give it to his kind," and every man will ſay well hereof, the more becauſe he is a gentleman, and of his kin, and in great penury; and therefore for the love of God remember ſuch matters. No more at this time, but God have you in his keeping both body and ſoul, and ſpeed you in your matters as well as I would ye ſhould do.

December, or January,
between 1460 and 1462.
1 and 2 E. IV.

LETTER XIX.

To my right worſhipful Sir and Maſter, mine Maſter John Paſton, Eſquire.

RIGHT worſhipful Sir and Maſter, I recommend me to you, and pleaſe you that the Church of Drayton is or ſhall be reſigned in haſte into the Biſhop's hands by Sir John Bullock, deſiring you heartily that ye like I may have the preſentation of the next avoidance for a nephew of mine called Sir Reynold Spendelowe, which I truſt your maſterſhip will agree to make in your name and mine as was laſt, &c. And Sir, pleaſe you alſo that I have had divers communications with Worceſter ſince Chriſtmas, and I feel by him utterly that he will not appoint in other

in other fourme than to have the londs of Feyrechildes and other londes in Drayton to the ſume of X m'rc of yow pprely by ſyde that y^t^ he deſyreth of myn Mayſt^r^ whom God aſſoyle whiche mater I remytte to yo^r^ noble diſcrecon. And as for Anſwere of the bylles y^t^ J have I have ben ſo ſekelew ſethe Cryſtmaſſe that I myght not yette don hem but J ſhal in alle haſt wher inne ye may excuſe yow by me if ye pleaſe tyl the next terme at whiche tyme alle ſhal be aunſwered be godds grace who p'f^r^ve yow and ſend yow th accomplyſhem't of yo'e deſyres &c. It' ſere pleaſe yo^r^e mayſt^r^ſhip hit was leten me wete in ryght ſecrete wyſe y^t^ a pyſſaunce is redy to aryve in thre p'ties of this londe by the meane of Kyng Herry and the quene y^t^ wes and by the Dewk Som^r^cete and others of VI^xx^ m^l^ men and here dey if Wynde and weder hadde f^r^vyd theym ſhuld a ben here ſone upon Candelmaſſe at Trente to london werdes ye^i^ ſhuld a ben by Candelmaſſe or ſone after one p^r^te of theym and another p^r^te comyng from Walys and the thredde fro Yerneſſey and Garneſſeye wher fore it is weel don ye enforme myn lord Warwyk y^t^ he may ſpeke to the Kyng y^t^ good p'vyion be hadde for w^t^-ſtandyng there malicyous p'poſe and evyl wylle whiche god graunt we may our come theym and ſo we ſhuld I dought not

The following Extracts from the Inſtitution Books in the Regiſtry of the Biſhop of Norwich, aſcertain the date of this Letter.

Draiton.

"Reg. xi. 124. 29 January, 1460-1. Johnanes Bullock ad præſentationem Johīs Paſton arm. & Tho. Howys Capellani."

"Reg. xi. 131. 15 March, 1461-2. Johēs Flourdew ad præſentationem eorundem."

It appears from hence that John Bullock reſigned the Living of Drayton in 1461-2, and that on the 15th of March John Flowerdew was preſented thereto, and not S^r^ Reynold Spendlowe.

if

other form than to hold the land of Fairchilds, and other lands in Drayton to the ſum of ten Marks (6*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*) of you properly, beſide that that he deſireth of mine Maſter, whom God aſſoil, which matter I remit to your noble diſcretion.

And as for anſwer of the Bills that I have, I have been ſo ſekelele *(ſickly)* ſince Chriſtmas that I might not yet done them, but I ſhall in all haſte, wherein ye may excuſe you by me if ye pleaſe till the next term, at which time all ſhall be anſwered by God's grace, who preſerve you and ſend you the accompliſhment of your deſires, &c.

Item, Sir pleaſe your maſterſhip, it was letten me weet in right ſecret wiſe that a puiſſance is ready to arrive in three parts of this land, by the mean of King Harry and the Queen that was, and by the Duke *(of)* Somerſet and others, of ſix ſcore thouſand men, and their day, if wind and weather had ſerved them, ſhould have been here ſoon upon Candlemaſs; at Trent to London ward, they ſhould have been by Candlemaſs, or ſoon after, one part of them, and another part coming from Wales, and the third from Jerſey and Guernſey, wherefore it is well done ye inform mine Lord Warwick, that he may ſpeak to the King, that good proviſion be had for withſtanding their malicious purpoſe and evil will, which God grant we may overcome

At this time Henry VI. was in Scotland, and his Queen in France ſolliciting aſſiſtance from Lewis XI. though with little ſucceſs; the report therefore of an invaſion with ſo large an army could have no real foundation; it was, however, the news of the day, and alarmed the friends of Edward.

On the Seal of this Letter is the impreſſion of the Bear, the well known cognizance of the Earl of Warwick. It ſhews both the popularity and power which this great Peer had at this time when his friends uſed this device of his on their ſeals.

Autograph. Pl. XIX. N° 16.

them,

if we were alle on there ben many medelers and they ben beſt cheryſhed whyche wold hurt moche if theſe come to as God diffende &c.

T. Howys.

12 by 6.

Paper Mark,
Two Pales, in a Lozenge Shield,
ſurmounted by a Coronet.
Pl. IX. N° 13.

Seal,
A Bear and ragged Staff,
or rather a Bear paſſant, I believe.

LETTER XX.

To my mooſte revrt and wurſchipfull Maſtre my M. Iohn Paſton be this delyverd.

PLESITH it yor goode Maſtreſchip to undreſtande yt I haue receyved a byll of John Boteler weche ſpeketh of yor heygh at Heyleſdn and of yor barly in other places but I undreſtand not what ye wold I ſchulde do therin nevertheles I ſchal do make it redy and as for yor heygh I ſchull tell you whan I come hume And as for money at Heyleſd'n I can non gete And at Sueyneſthorp I haue take iiij m'rc It' as for tidyngs the ſeſcons ſchal be at Thetford on Wedneſday next comyng where I vndreſtande M. Berney wol be wt moche people be cauce ther is come to hȳ a prevy ſeale that he ſchuld be wt the Kyng w'in vj dayes that the prevy ſeale whas delyverd hȳ weche he can not

them, and ſo we ſhould I doubt not if we were all one, there be many meddlers, and they be beſt cheriſhed, which would hurt much if theſe come too, as God defend, &c.

THOMAS HOWYS.

February, 1461-2.
1 E. IV.

LETTER XX.

To my moſt reverend and worſhipful Maſter, my Maſter John Paſton, be this delivered.

PLEASETH your good maſterſhip to underſtand that I have received a bill of John Boteler, which ſpeaketh of your hay at helleſdon, and of your barley in other places, but I underſtand not what ye would I ſhould do therein; nevertheleſs I ſhall do make (*have it made*) ready; and as for your hay I ſhall tell you when I come home; and as for money at Helleſdon I cannot get, and at Swainſthorp I have taken four marks (2*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*)

Item, as for tidings the Seſſions ſhall be at Thetford on Wedneſday next coming, where I underſtand Maſter Berney will be with much people, becauſe there is come to him a Privy Seal that he ſhould be with the King within ſix days *(after)* that the Privy Seal was delivered him, which he cannot do, for the ſixth

doo for the vj day is to morwe ther is on comen to Felbrigge to Will'm Yelv'ton on other and to Rob^{t} Rough an other And non of them wol goo to the Kyng and the undreſcherif tolde me that ther is comen A comyſcon doun to hes maiſtre that in cas they Come not up to the Kyng be ther prevy ſeales that than he rere the contre and take hem and bryng hem to the Kyng where ſo eu^{r} he be It' Jamys Greſh'm tellethe me the ſame and as for tidyngs fro Lond'n we here non but y^{t} John Colman telleth me that if Berney or Rob^{t} Rough come up they are like to die y' be come to london embaſeto^{r}s From the Duke of Burgun' weche cauced the Kyng to ſpede hȳ the rather to lond'n It' as for any newe Aſſiſes at Thetford ther is non but that hathe hanged this v yere as the ſcherif tellethe me I whas p'poſed to be at home this nyght tell I had yo^{r} bille weche cauceth me to ride on to Drayton for diu^{r}s thyngs &c. Almyghty Ihu preſerve you Wretē at Norwiche the ij munday of clene lente.

Yo^{r} pore Beedemā and ſ^{r}v'nt,

Ric Calle.

12 by 7 ¼.

Seal, Pl. xxiii. N° 8.
An Eagle's Head eraſed.
Motto illegible.

Paper Marks,
Wheels, &c.
Pl. xxii. N° 10.

The Perſons here mentioned to have been ſummoned to attend the King under his writ of Privy Seal were at this time I ſuppoſe ſuſpected not only of concerning themſelves in the affairs of their late Sovereign Henry VI. but of acting for his intereſt, particularly Berney and Rough, or ſuch violent proceedings as that of raiſing the county to apprehend them, would ſcarcely have been commanded: it might however be for ſome other cauſe.

LET-

day is to-morrow; there is one come to Felbrigg, to William Yelverton one other, and to Robert Rough another, and none of them will go to the King; and the Under Sheriff told me that there is come a Commiſſion down to his Maſter, that in caſe they come not up to the King by their Privy Seals, that then he rear the Country and take them and bring them to the King whereſoever he be.

Item, James Greſham telleth me the ſame, and as for tidings from London we hear none, but that John Colman telleth me that if Berney or Robert Rough come up they are like to die.

There be come to London Ambaſſadors from the Duke of Burgundy, which cauſed the King to ſpeed him the rather to London.

Item, as for any new Aſſizes at Thetford there is none but that hath hanged this five years, as the Sheriff telleth me.

I was purpoſed to be at home this night till I had your bill, which cauſeth me to ride on to Drayton for divers things, &c. Almighty Jeſu preſerve you.

Written at Norwich, the ſecond Monday of clean Lent.

Your poor Beadſman and Servant,

RICHARD CALLE.

Norwich,
Monday, 15 March,
1461-2. 2 E. IV.

If William Yelverton had offended, he ſoon made his peace, for he now was, and continued to be, a Juſtice of the King's Bench.

This embaſſy from Philip Duke of Burgundy fixes the date of this Letter to the year 1461-2, as in the beginning of this year his ambaſſadors arrived.

Autograph. Pl. XVIII. N° 9.

LETTER XXJ.

To my right Singler
Maiſter J. Paſton
Squyer in haſt &c.

AFTER due recomendacon Pleaſe it yo^{r} maiſt^{r}ſhip to wyte Maiſt^{r} Yeluerton Juſtic ſeid in y^{e} Seſſions y^{t} y^{e} Kyng ſhulde kepe his Eſtern at Bury and from thens Come unto yis Cuntre and ſe ſuyche riottes as haue be in yis Cuntre punyſhed in ſuche fourme as happely ſumme ſhulde hange by y^{e} nekke And he tolde what thank he had of y^{e} Kyng at Cambrigg for cauſe he declarid ſo well y^{e} Charge of extorcons doon by ſhirefs and oy^{r} officers &c. for y^{e} whiche declaracon y^{e} Kyng tooke hym by y^{e} hand and ſeid he cowde hym grett thanke and p'yed hym ſo to do in yis Cuntre &c. In haſt at Norwich y^{e} Wedneſſeday next tofore yannunciacon &c.

Yo^{r} pov^{r}e
J. Greſh'm.

11 ½ by 3 ½.

It appears from this Letter that the King in perſon attended at the Aſſizes in Cambridge, during the time that his Judges tranſacted the buſineſs of the Court.

The extortions, and other acts of oppreſſion, done by the Sheriffs, &c. of counties were at this time very great, and loudly called for reformation.

LETTER XXI.

To my right ſingular Maſter, J. Paſton, Eſq. in haſte, &c.

AFTER due recommendation pleaſe it your maſterſhip to weet that Maſter Yelverton Juſtice, ſaid in the Seſſions that the King ſhould keep his Eaſter at Bury, and from thence come into this country and ſee ſuch riots as have been in this country puniſhed in ſuch form as happily ſome ſhould hang by the neck; and he told what thank he had of the King at Cambridge for cauſe he declared ſo well the charge of extortion done by Sheriffs and other officers, &c. for the which declaration the King took him by the hand, and ſaid he cowde (*owed*) him great thanks, and prayed him ſo to do in this country, &c.

In haſte at Norwich the Wedneſday next before the Annunciation.

Your poor

JAMES GRESHAM.

Norwich,
Wedneſday, 24 March,
1461-2. 2 E. IV.
but this date is not certain.

On the back of this Letter is written the following memorandum: "Juſtice Yelverton boaſteth of cõmendacon had at the King's hands."

Autograph. Pl. III. N° 28.

LET-

LETTER XXIJ.

On to my Mayſtyr Paſtone be y^t lr delyv'ryd.

RYTH wurchopful Sere I recomānd me on to you and iff it lyke you I have ſpokyn w^t Buſſard and demaūdyd hym iff he had ony evydens dedys or copyis or ony oy^r evydens of ony place or off ony lyflod y^t longg^t on to my mayſt^r and ſeyth nay be is Feyth and be is trowthe For if he hadde he wold ſend hem on to you w^t a good wyl for he ſeyth it xud don hym non eſe and ſer iff it pleſe you I aſkyd hym if he knew ony evydens y^t he had delyv'ryd on to Will' Woſſetyr bill or deds or ony oy^r evydens y^t xuld longgȳ on to ony purchas or off ony lyfflod on to my mayſtrys and he ſeyth nay trewly For he ſeyth y^e laſt tyme y^t he wrot on to Will Wuſſet^r it was be ffor myſſomyr and yāne he wrot acronekyl of Ierewſalem and y^e Jornes y^t my mayſt^r dede whyl he was in Frānce y^t god on is Sowle haue m^rcy and he ſeyth y^t y^s drow more yan xx Whazerys off paper and y^s wrytyng delyv'ryd on to Will Wurſſet^r and non oy^r ne knowyth not off non oy^r be is feyth.

Be yo^r Man

J. Dabp.

11 ½ by 6 ½.

This Letter was moſt probably written in the beginning of the reign of Edward IV. after the Executors of Sir J. Faſtolf had diſagreed amongſt themſelves, and would ſcarcely have been worth preſerving, but as it mentions "A Chronicle of Jeruſalem," and "A Hiſtory of the valiant Acts of Sir John Faſtolf."

LETTER XXII.

Unto my Maſter Paſton, be this Letter delivered.

RIGHT worſhipful Sir, I recommend me unto you, and if it like you I have ſpoken with Buſſard, and demanded (*aſked*) him if he had any evidence, deeds, or copies, or any other evidence of any place, or of any livelihood that longg^{t} (*belongeth*) unto my maſter, and (*he*) ſaith nay by his faith and by his truth, for if he had he would ſend them unto you with a good will; for he ſaith, it ſhould do him none eaſe, (*they would be of no uſe to him*). And Sir if it pleaſe you I aſked him if he knew any evidence that he had delivered unto William Worceſter, bill, or deeds, or any other evidence, that ſhould belong unto any purchaſe, or of any livelihood unto my Maſter's, and he ſaith nay truly, for he ſaith the laſt time that he wrote unto William Worceſter it was before Midſummer and then he wrote "A Chronicle of Jeruſalem," and the Jornes (*Journes, valiant Exploits*) that my Maſter (*Faſtolf*) did while he was in France, that God on his ſoul have mercy! And he ſaith that this drew more than twenty Whazerys (*Waſes, Bundles, q?*) of paper, and this writing (*he*) delivered unto William Worceſter and none other, nor knoweth not of none other by his faith.

By your man,

JOHN DAVY.

Moſt probably written after 1460; and in the beginning of the reign of E. IV.

This Buſſard appears to have been one of thoſe perſons who were employed to tranſcribe Books before the Art of Printing reached England, and perhaps was likewiſe concerned in drawing up, as well as in writing, the Account of Sir John Faſtolf's Exploits in France.

Autograph. Pl. xxv. N° 24.

LET-

LETTER XXIII.

To my Ryth reverend and worchepfull Fadyr Iohn Paſton be thys delyuryd.

AFTYR all humbyll and moſt due recomendacion as lowly as I can I beſeche yow of yor blyſſyng pleſyt yow to have knowlege yt as on Sonday next be for Myhelmas day as my modyr came fro london ward ſche cam homward by Cotton and ſche ſent for me to Heylyſdon to come to hyr thedyr and ſo I haue ben in the plaſe eur ſethyn And as ſone as Myhelmas day was paſt I begane to dyſtreyne the ten'nts and gadryd ſome ſyllvyr as myche I trowe as wyll pay for our coſts and yet I cepe here ryth a good Felawſchep and mor wer p'myſyd me whyche yt came not to me wherby I was ner deſeyuyd for when Debnam herd ſey how yt I began to gadyr ſylvyr he reyſyd many men wt in j daye and an halfe to ye nombyr of iijc men as I was credebly aſſartaynyed by a yeman of ye Chambyr of my lordys that owythe me good wyll whech yeman as ſone as he had ſene ther felauſchep rod ſtreyth to my lord and jnformyd hym of it and alſo he informyd my lord how yt

We have here an exact picture of the times, and are furniſhed with the ſteps taken to keep and defend landed property. Poſſeſſion ſeemed to depend entirely upon the number of men the Poſſeſſor was able to bring together at a ſhort notice, to reſiſt ſuch a fellowſhip as his Adverſary brought to diſpoſſeſs him. The influence of the Great, however, extended far, and if they interfered, the others were obliged to ſubmit. This ſeems to have been the caſe here, as the heads of both parties were Retainers of the Duke of Norfolk. Had they been under different Nobles, perhaps a local civil commotion would have

LETTER XXIII.

To my right reverend and worſhipful Father John Paſton, be this delivered.

AFTER all humble and moſt due recommendation, as lowly as I can, I beſeech you of your bleſſing; pleaſe it you to have knowledge that as on Sunday next before Michaelmas Day as my mother came from London ward, ſhe came homeward by Cotton, and ſhe ſent for me to Helleſdon to come to her thither, and ſo I have been in the place ever ſince; and as ſoon as Michaelmas day was paſſed I began to diſtrain the tenants, and gathered ſome ſilver, as much, I trow, as will pay for our coſts, and yet I keep here right a good fellowſhip, and more were promiſed me, which that came not to me, whereby I was near deceived, for when Debenham heard ſay how that I began to gather ſilver, he raiſed many men within one day and an half to the nnmber of three hundred men, as I was credibly aſcertained by a Yeoman of the Chamber of my Lord's (*of Norfolk*) that oweth me good will, which Yeoman as ſoon as he had ſeen their fellowſhip rode ſtrait to my Lord and informed him of it; and alſo he informed my Lord how that I had gathered another

have been ſtirred up, and many lives have been loſt before the conteſt had been decided.

It is difficult to aſcertain the exact year in which this Letter was written. I think it muſt have been in the beginning of King Edward's reign, but I am not certain.

Autograph. Pl. IV. N° 9.

The Debenhams were a family of conſequence in Suffolk, and Hemnaleſhall in the pariſh of Cotton, ſince belonged to the Pretymans, a family of reſpectability in the county of Suffolk; it is now the eſtate of Edmund Tyrel, Eſq. of Gipping.

y^t I had gadryd a nothyr gret felaſhſchep whyche felawſchep he namyd more then we wer by j^c and an halfe and yett more and he ſeyd on to my lord and my lady and to ther conſell y^t w^t owt that my lord took a dyrectyon in the mat^r that ther wer leek to be do gret harme on bothe ou^r pertyes wheche wer a gret dyſworchep to my lord Conſederyng how y^t he takyth us bothe for hys men and ſo we be knowyn well jnow upon whyche Jnformacion and dyſworchep to my lord y^t tweyn of hys men ſchold debat ſo ner hym Contrary to y^e Kyngs peſe Conſedryd of my lord and my lady and ther Cownſell my lord ſent for me and Syr Gylberd Debnam to come to hym to Framlyngh'm bothe and as it fortunyd well my modyr come to me to Cotton not half an owyr be for y^t the meſenger cam to me fro my lord whecche was late upon twyſday laſt paſt at nyth and the next day on the mornyng I rod to my lord to Framlyngh'm and ſo ded Syr Gylberd alſo and as ſone as we wer come we wer ſent for to come to my lord and when we come to my lord he deſiyryd of us bothe y^t we ſchold neythyrthyr gadyr no felawſchep but ſyche men as we had gadryd y^t we ſchold ſend hem home a yen and y^t the Coort ſchold be Contenuyd in to the tyme y^t my lord or ſyche as he wold aſyngne had ſpok bothe w^t yow and Yelv^ton and Ienney and y^t on Jndeferent man choſyn by us bothe ſchold be aſſynyd to kep' the plaſe in to y^e tyme y^t ye and they wer ſpook w^t And then I anſwed my lord and ſeyd how y^t at that tyme I had my maiſtyr w'in y^e man^r of Cotton whyche was my modyr and in to the tyme y^t I had ſpook w^t hyr I cowd geve none anſwer and ſo my lord ſent Rychcrd Fulm^rſton berer hereof to my

great fellowſhip, which fellowſhip he named more than we were by one hundred and an half and yet more; and he ſaid unto my Lord, and my Lady, and to their Counſel that without that my Lord took a direction in the matter, that there were like to be done great harm on both our parties, which were a great diſworſhip to my Lord conſidering how that he taketh us both for his men, and ſo we be known well enough; upon which information, and diſworſhip to my Lord, that twain of his men ſhould debate ſo near him, contrary to the King's peace, conſidered of my Lord and my Lady and their Counſel, my Lord ſent for me and Sir Gilbert Debenham to come to him to Framlingham both; and as it fortuned well my Mother came to me to Cotton not half an hour before that the meſſenger came to me from my Lord, which was late upon Tueſday laſt paſt at night, and the next day on the morning I rode to my lord to Framlingham, and ſo did Sir Gilbert alſo, and as ſoon as we were come, we were ſent for to come to my Lord, and when we came to my Lord, he deſired of us both that we ſhould neither gather no fellowſhip, but ſuch men as we had gathered, that we ſhould ſend them home again, and that the Court ſhould be continued into the time that my Lord, or ſuch as he would aſſign had ſpoken both with you, and Yelverton, and Jenney; and that one indifferent man, choſen by us both, ſhould be aſſigned to keep the place into the time that ye and they were ſpoken with.

And then I anſwered my Lord and ſaid, how that at that time I had my Maſter within the Manor of Cotton, which was my Mother, and into the time that I had ſpoken with her, I could give none anſwer; and ſo my Lord ſent Richard Fulmerſton

modyr thys day for an Anſwer whyche Anſwer he ſchold bryng to my lord to london for my lord rod to londons word as yeſtrday and ye ſoner be cauſe he truſtyd to haue a good end of yis matr and alle othyr be twyx yow whyche he takyth for a gret worchep to hym and a gret Auantage bothe and he cowd bryng yis matr abowt for then he wold truſt to have your ſervyſe alle whyche wer to hym gret treſour and Auantage And yis was the anſwer yt my modyr and I gaue hym yt at ye inſtans of my lord and my ladye we wold do yus myche as for to put ye Coort in Coutenuans and no more to receyve of ye profyts of ye manr than we had and had dyſtreſid for tyll in to ye tym that ſche and I had werd ayen fro my lord and yow if ſo wer yt yey wold neythyr mak entreys nor dyſtreyn the ten'ntys nor chepe no coort mor then we wold do and we told Rychord Fulmrſton that thys my modyr and I ded at ye Inſtans and gret requeſt of my lord be cauſe my lord intendyd pes whyche reſonably we wold not be ayenſt and yet we ſeyd we hnew well yt we ſchold haue no thank of yow when ye knew of it wt owt it wer be eauſe we ded it at my lordys Iuſtans but be for thys anſwer we had receyvyd as myche ſylvyr full ner as Rychord Calle ſent us bokys of for to gadyryt bye and as for ye poſſeſſyon of ye plaſe we told hym yt we wold kepe it and Syr Gylberd agreyd ſo that Yelvrton and Ieney wold do ye ſame for it was tyme for hym to ſey ſo for my lord told hym yt he wold hym faſt by the Feet ellys to be ſuyr of hym yt he ſchold make non Jnſurreccions in to yt tyme yt my lord came aven fro London I wene and ſo dothe my mo-

dyr

bearer hereof to my Mother this day for an anſwer, which anſwer he ſhould bring to my Lord to London; for my Lord rode to London ward as yeſterday, and the ſooner becauſe he truſted to have a good end of this matter and all others betwixt you, which he taketh for a great worſhip to him ward, and a great advantage both, and *(if)* he could bring this matter about, for then he would truſt to have your ſervice, all which were to him great treaſure and advantage.

And this was the anſwer that my Mother and I gave him, that at the inſtance of my Lord and my Lady we would do thus much as for to put the Court in continuance, and no more to receive of the profits of the Manor than we had, and had diſtreſſed for, till into the time that ſhe and I had word again from my Lord and you; if ſo were that they would neither make entries nor diſtrain the tenants, nor keep no Court more than we would do, and we told Richard Fulmerſton that this my Mother and I did at the inſtance and great requeſt of my Lord, becauſe my Lord intended peace, which reaſonably we would not be againſt, and yet we ſaid we knew well that we ſhould have no thank of you, when ye knew of it, without it were becauſe we did it at my Lord's inſtance; but before this anſwer we had received as much ſilver, full nigh, as Richard Calle ſent us books of, for to gather it by; and as for the poſſeſſion of the place, we told him that we would keep it, and Sir Gilbert agreed, ſo that Yelverton and Jenney would do the ſame, for it was time for him to ſay ſo, for my Lord told him that he would ſet him faſt by the feet elſe, to be ſure of him, that he ſhould make none inſurrections into the time that my Lord came again from London.

I ween,

dyr bothe y^t^ thys appoyntment was mad in good tyme for I was deſeyvyd of bettyr than an C men and an halfe y^t^ I had promyſe of to haue Come to me when I ſent for hem thys promes had I befor y^t^ I ſent to yow the laſt lettyr the daye aftyr ſeynt Myhell Ienney herd ſeye y^t^ I cepyd Cotton and he rod to Nacton and ther held a cort and receyvyd y^e^ profytys of the man^r^ I beſeche yow y^t^ I may haue knowlage in haſt fro yow how ye wyll y^t^ I be demenyd in thys mat^r^ and in al othyr and I ſchal aplye me to fulfyll you^r^ intent in them to my power by the grace of god whom I beſeche haue yow in guydyng and ſende yow yowyr herts deſyir Wretyn at Hemnalle Halle in Cotton the Thurſday next befor Seynt Feythe.

My modyr recomandyth her to yow and preyith yow to hold hyr excuſyd that ſche wrytyth not to yow at thys tyme for ſche may haue no leyſer the berer her of ſchall informe yow whedyr Ieney wyll agre to thys Appoytment or not J thynk he dar do non othyr wyſe.

Yo^r^. ſone and lowly ſervūt,

John Paſton.

12 by 13.

Paper Mark,
A Coronet.
Pl. xxvi. N° 2.

I ween, and ſo doth my Mother both, that this appointment was made in good time, for I was deceived of better than an hundred men and an half, that I had promiſe of to have come to me when I ſent for them, this promiſe had I before that I ſent to you the laſt Letter the day after Saint Michael. Jenney heard ſay that I kept Cotton, and he rode to Nacton, and there held a Court, and received the profits of the Manor.

I beſeech you that I may have knowledge in haſte from you how ye will that I be demeaned in this matter and in all others, and I ſhall apply me to fulfil your intent in them to my power by the grace of God, whom I beſeech have you in guiding, and ſend you your heart's deſire. Written at Hemnale's Hall, in Cotton, the Thurſday next before Saint Faith.

My Mother recommendeth her to you, and prayeth you to hold her excuſed that ſhe writeth not to you at this time, for ſhe may have no leiſure; the bearer hereof ſhall inform you, whether Jenney will agree to this appointment or not, I think he dare do none otherwiſe.

Your Son and lowly Servant,

JOHN PASTON.

Hemnales Hall,
Cotton, Suffolk,
Thurſday, October E. IV.

Exact year uncertain, but in the beginning of E. IVth's Reign.

LET-

LETTER XXXII.

To my Ryght Worchipfull
hoſbond Iohn Paſton be thys
lettr dclyv'yd in haſt.

RIGHT Worchepfull huſbond I recōmand me to you pleaſe you to wet y^t I was at Norwic this wek to p vey ſuche thyngs as nedythe me ageyns thys Wynt^r And I was at my modd^r and wille I was ther ther cam in on wrothe a Kynnyſman of Elyſabet Clers and he ſey yo^r dowt^r and preyſyd hyr to my mod^r and ſeyd y^t ſhe was A goodly yong womā And my mod^r p'yd hym for to gett for hyr on good mariage yf he knewe any And he ſeyd he knewe on ſhuld be of a CCC mark be yer ye wyche is S^r John Cley Son that is Chamb^rleyn w^t my lady of [1] York and he ys of Age of xviij yer old zyf ye thynk it be for to be ſpok of my mod^r thynkyth y^t it ſhuld be get for leſſe mony nowe in thys world than it ſhuld be her aft^r owthyr y^t j or ſū other good mariage It' I ſpake w^t Maſt^r John Eſtgate for Pekerynes mat^r aft^r yo^r entent of y^e mat^r of y^e lett^r y^t ye ſent home and he ſeyd to me he ſhuld write to yow howe he had don ther in and ſo he ſent you a lett^t y^e wyche was ſent you be John [2] Wodows man w^t other lett's as for anſwer other mater daubeney

From ſeveral of the Letters contained in theſe Volumes it appears that propoſals for a marriage often originated from the Friends of the Lady, not that ſhe had any prepoſſeſſion in favour of the Gentleman, but becauſe her Friends thought ſuch a match might be proper in reſpect to wordly matters.

This ſeems to have been the caſe here, and the grandmother of the young Lady wiſhes the Friends of Sir John Cley to be ſpoken to on this ſubject, thinking that his Son's livelihood would be a ſufficient one, and that a marriage might be concluded as times now go, (for that muſt be the meaning of the words "now in thys world") on reaſonable terms; this marriage however never took effect.

tellythe

LETTER XXIV.

To my right worſhipful Huſband John Paſton, be this Letter delivered in haſte.

RIGHT worſhipful Huſband, I recommend me to you, pleaſe you to weet that I was at Norwich this week to purvey ſuch things as needeth me againſt this winter; and I was at my Mother's, and while I was there, there came in one Wrothe, a kinſman of Elizabeth Clere's and he ſey *(ſaw)* your Daughter and praiſed her to my Mother, and ſaid that ſhe was a goodly young woman; and my Mother prayed him for to get for her one good marriage if he knew any; and he ſaid he knew one *(that)* ſhould be of a 300 marks *(200l.)* by year, the which is Sir John Cley's Son, that is Chamberlayn with my Lady of [1] York, and he is of age of 18 years old; if ye think it be for to be ſpoken of, my Mother thinks that it ſhould be got for leſs money now in this world than it ſhould be hereafter, either that one, or ſome other good marriage.

Item, I ſpake with maſter John Eſtgate for Pykering's matter after your intent of the matter of the Letter that ye ſent home, and he ſaid to me he ſhould write to you how he had done therein, and ſo he ſent you a Letter, the which was ſent you by John [2] Wodehouſe's man with other Letters.

[1] Cecily, Ducheſs of York, widow of Richard Plantagenet, Duke of York, and mother of Edward IV. She died in an advanced age, at her Caſtle of Berkhamſtead, in May 1495, and was buried near her Huſband, in the Choir of the Collegiate Church of Fotheringhay, in Northamptonſhire.

[2] John Wodehouſe, Eſq. of Kimberley, Son of the renowned John Wodehouſe, Eſq. who gained ſo much honour at the battle of Agincourt; he died in 1465, and lies buried in Kimberley Chancel. The preſent Sir John Wodehouſe of Kimberley, Bart. is the twelfth in lineal deſcent from this anceſtor.

tellythe me he wret to you I be feche alle myghty god have you in hys kepyng Wretyn at Caſt' y^e^ Sonday next aft^r^ Seynt Marteyne.

By yo^r^

[3] M. Paſton.

12 ½ by 4 ¾.

[3] Autograph. Pl. II. N° 20. Seal, Pl. XIV. N° 4. A Fleur de Lys.

LETTER XVII.

To my Coſyn Margret Paſton.

MYN owne dere fou^r^eyn lady I recomaund me to yow and thank yow of the gret chere y^t^ ye mad me here to my gret coſt and charge and labo^r^ no more at thys tyme but that I pray yow ye woll ſend me hedir ij clue of [1] Worſted for dobletts to happe me thys cold wynter and that ye inquere where Will'm Paſton bought his tepet of fyne worſted whech is almoſt like ſilk and if that be mech fyner thaune y^t^ ye ſhuld bye me after vij or viij^s^ thaune by me a q'rt^r^ and the nayle therof for colers thow it be derer thaune the tother for J wold make my doblet all Worſted for Worſhip of Norff. rather thaune like Gonnores doblet.

The various matter contained in this Letter makes it worthy the reader's notice; the references to the Receivers Accounts of Sir John Faſtolf ſhew the regularity with which all money and other tranſactions were entered and kept. The concluding verſes furniſh us with a ſpecimen of the familiar Poetry of the time.

It'm

As for anſwer (*of*) other matters, Daubeney telleth me he wrote to you. I beſeech Almighty God have you in his keeping. Written at Caiſter, the Sunday next after Saint Martin.

By your

[3] MARGARET PASTON.

Caiſter, Sunday, November
between 1461 and 1465. 1 and 5 E. IV

LETTER XXV.

To my Couſin Margaret Paſton.

MINE own dear ſovereign Lady, I recommend me to you, and thank you of the great cheer that ye made me here to my great coſt and charge and labour. No more at this time, but that I pray you ye will ſend me hither two ells of [1] worſted for Doublets, to happe me *(wrap me up warm)* this cold winter; and that ye enquire where William Paſton bought his Tippet of fine worſted, which is almoſt like ſilk, and if that be much finer than that ye ſhould buy me after ſeven or eight ſhillings, then buy me a quarter and the nail thereof for Collars, though it be dearer than the other, for I would make my doublet all worſted for worſhip of Norfolk, rather than like Gonner's doublet.

[1] Worſted is a ſmall market-town in the moſt Eaſt part of the county of Norfolk, formerly famous for the manufacture of thoſe ſtuffs which ſtill bear its name, and of which, for the worſhip of Norfolk, J. Paſton deſired his Doublet might be made.

It'm as for the mater of the jx^{xx} li aſkyd by my lady of [2] Bedford for the maner of Weſtthirrok where as S^{r} Thom' Howes ſaith that he hath no wrytyng therof but y^{t} S^{r} Iohn Faſtolf purchaſed the ſeid maner and payd f^{r}teyn mony in Erneſt and aftirward gr'untyd his bargeyn to the Duc of Bedford and ſo the mony y^{t} he toke was for the mony that he had payd p^{r}aventure S' Thom' hath writyng therof and knowyth it not for if ther be any ſuch mony payd upon any bargeyn he ſhall fynd it in Kyrtlyngs bocks y^{t} was S^{r} Iohn Faſtolfs Reſeyv^{r} and it was abought ſuch tyme as the duc of Bedford was laſt in Inglond whech as it is told me was the viij yere of kyng herry the fift or the viij yere of kyng herry the ſext and the ſomme that he payd for the ſeid bargeyn was CCC m'rks Alſo he ſhall fynd the xxij yere of kyng Herry or ther abought in the acompts of on of Faſtolfs Reſeyvo's at london that ther was take of S' Thom' Tyrell and of the [3] Ducheſſe of Exceſtre that was wif to S^{r} lowes Iohn Fermo's of the ſeid maner f^{r}teyn mony for repaymēt of part of the ſeid CCC m'rk Alſo he ſhall fynd in yeres after y^{t} or in that yere or ther aboutes that S' Iohn Faſtolf reſeyved

[2] Jaquelina, daughter of Peter of Luxenburgh Earl of Saint Poul, was the ſecond wife of John Plantagenet, Duke of Bedford; ſhe was married to him in 1433, and after his deceaſe, in 1435, ſhe became the wife of Sir Richard Wydvile and died in 1472.

[3] This was moſt probably Margaret, daughter and heir of Sir Thomas Neville, and widow of Thomas Beaufort Duke of Exeter; who was buried in the Abbey Church at Bury St. Edmund's. On digging amongſt the ruins of this Abbey, the body of the Duke was found, on the 20th of February 1772, wrapt in lead, and entire.

The face, hair, and every part were perfect, and the flesh ſolid, but being expoſed to the air, the body ſoon became offenſive.

mony

Item, as for the matter of the nine ſcore pounds aſked by my Lady of [2] Bedford for the manor of Weſt Thurrok, whereas Sir Thomas Howys ſaith that he hath no writing thereof, but that Sir John Faſtolf purchaſed the ſaid manor, and paid certain money in earneſt, and afterwards granted his bargain to the Duke of Bedford, and ſo the money that he took was for the money that he had paid; peradventure Sir Thomas Howys hath writing thereof, and knoweth it not; for if there be any ſuch money paid upon any bargain he ſhall find it in Kyrtling's books that was Sir John Faſtolf's Receiver, and it was about ſuch time as the Duke of Bedford was laſt in England, which, as it is told me, was the 8th year of King Harry V. (1420,) or the 8th year of King Harry VI. (1429), and the ſum that he paid for the ſaid bargain was 300 marks (200*l.*) Alſo, he ſhall find the 22d year of King Harry (VI.) or there about (1443), in the accounts of one of Faſtolf's Receivers at London, that there was taken of Sir Thomas Tyrell, and of the Ducheſs of [3] Exeter, that was wife to Sir Lewis Johnes, Farmer of the ſaid manor, certain money for repayment of part of the ſaid 300 marks. Alſo he ſhall find in years after that, or that year, or there-

I am ſorry to add, that, for want of proper attention, the body was indecently thrown out of its leaden repoſitory (which was ſold by the workmen for its value by weight), and tumbled into the ground, where it remained till the next day, when, at the expence of ſome neighbouring gentlemen, an oaken coffin was procured, in which the remains were decently depoſited, and interred near the ſpot where they were originally diſcovered.

I procured ſome of the hair, which was of a fine brown colour, and very flexible.

abouts

mony of my lord [4] Revers y[t] now is by the name of Richard Wydevile for his owne dette dew to S[r] John Faſtolf Wherfore if S[r] Thom' be trewe to his Maſter lete hym do his devoir to make y[t] Worſeter whech is uphold be hym w[t] the deds goods to be trewe to his maſter or ellis it is tyme for S[r] Thom' to forſake hym and helpe to punyſsh hym or mē maſt ſey that S[r] Thom' is not trewe and more ouer lete S[r] Thom' examiē what he can fynd in this mater that I ſent hym werd of whech mater he ſhall fynd in the ſeid Reſeyvo[s] bocks if he liſt to ſeke it.

Itm, on the day after yo[r] dep[r]tyng I reſeyved letters by Will Ros from yo[r] ſones to me and to yow and to Ric Calle &c.

It' I ſhall telle you a tale Pampyng and I have picked your [5] male and taken out [6] peſis v for upon truſt of Calleş p[r]miſe we may ſone onthryve and if Calle bryng us hedir xx li ye ſhall have yo[r] peſes ayen good and round or ellis if he woll not pay yow the valew of the peſes there to the poſt do nayle his ere or ellis do hym ſome other wrongs for I will no more in his defaut borough and but if the reſeyvyng of my livelod be better plyed [7] he ſhall Criſts ours and mine clene tryed and loke ye be mery and take no thought for thys ryme is cūnyngly wrought

[4] Sir Richard Wydvile, in 1448, was created Baron Rivers of Grafton in Northamptonſhire, and elected a Knight of the Garter. His daughter Elizabeth afterwards became the Queen of Edward IV. who then advanced her father to the dignity of Earl Rivers. He was ſeized by the Lancaſter mutineers, and beheaded at Banbury, in 1469.

my

abouts that Sir John Faſtolf received money of my Lord [4] Rivers that now is, by the name of Richard Wydvile, for his own debt due to Sir John Faſtolf; wherefore, if Sir Thomas be true to his maſter, let him do his devoir to make that Worceſter, which is upheld by him with the dead's goods, be true to his maſter, or elſe it is time for Sir Thomas to forſake him, and help to puniſh him, or men muſt ſay that Sir Thomas is not true; and moreover let Sir Thomas examine what he can find in this matter that I ſent him word of, which matter he ſhall find in the ſaid receiver's book, if he liſt to ſeek it.

Item, on the day after your departing, I received letters by William Roos from your ſons to me, and to you, and to Richard Calle, &c.

Item, I ſhall tell you a tale,
Pampyng and I have picked your [5] male
And taken out [6] Pieces five,
For upon truſt of Calle's promiſe, we may ſoon unthrive,
And, if Calle bring us hither twenty pound,
Ye ſhall have your pieces again, good and round;
Or elſe, if he will not pay you the value of the pieces, there
To the poſt do nail his ear,
Or elſe do him ſome other wrongs,
For I will no more in his default borrow;
And but if (*unleſs*) the receiving of my livelihood be better plied
[7] He ſhall Chriſt's hour and mine clean tried;
And look ye be merry and take no thought,
For this rhyme is cunningly wrought.

[5] Male, or Mail, is a trunk or portmanteau. It is to be obſerved, that in the original Letter the verſes do not finiſh the line but are written as proſe.

[6] Pieces of money.

[7] I do not underſtand this line.

My

my Lord [8] Perſy and all this houſe recomaund them to yow dogge catte and mowſe and wyſshe ye had be here ſtille for the ſey ye are a good [9] gille no more to you at this tyme but God hym ſave y[t] mad this ryme wret ye of ſent mathe by yowr trew and truſtie huſband.

I. P.

10 ½ by 17 ¾.

Paper Mark,
An Anchor,
Pl. XXII. N° 12.

[8] This muſt be Henry Lord Percy, ſon and heir of Henry Percy Earl of Northumberland, who was killed at the battle of Towton, in 1461, by Ellenor, grand-daughter and heir of Robert Lord Poynings.

His father having been attainted he continned to be called Lord Percy; but in 1472 was fully reſtored both in blood and title, the attainder of his father being made void. He was murdered by a tumultuous mob in Yorkſhire, in 1488.

LETTER XXIV.

To myn Welbeloued frende
S' Thom's Howys prſon
of Blofeld.

WELBELOUED Frende I grete you well And for as muche as I underſtonde that Williaz Wurceſt[r] late the ſ[r]v'nt unto S[r] John Faſtolf Knyth whois ſoule God aſſoyle ys not had in fauo[r] ne truſt w[t] my right welbeloued frende John Paſton nether w[t] you as he ſeyth Namely in ſuch maters and cauſes as concerneth the wylle and teſtament of the ſaid S[r] John Faſtolf

And

My Lord [8] Percy and all this houſe
Recommend them to you, dog, cat and mouſe,
And wiſh ye had been here ſtill,
For they ſay ye are a good [9] gill.
No more to you at this time,
But God him ſave that made this rhyme.
Written the of Saint Mathe,
By your true and truſty huſband J. P.

February,
Between 1461 and 1465.
1 and 5 E. IV.

9 An agreeable companion.
The exact date of this Letter cannot be aſcertained.
Autograph. Pl. XXIV. N° 6.

LETTER XXVI.

To mine wellbeloved Friend Sir Thomas Howys, Parſon of Bloſield.

WELLBELOVED Friend I greet you well, and for as much as I underſtand that William Worceſter, late the ſervant unto Sir John Faſtolf, knight, whoſe ſoul God aſſoil, is not had in favour nor truſt with my right wellbeloved friend John Paſton, neither with you, as he ſaith, namely in ſuch matters and cauſes as concerneth the will and teſtament of the

And as J am informed the ſaid Wil'iaz p'poſeth hym to go into his Cuntr' for the whiche cauſe he hath deſired me to wryte unto you that ye wolde ben a ſpecial good frend unto hym for his ſaid maſtris ſake to haue alle ſuche things as reaſon and conſciens req'reth And that ye wolde be meane vnto Paſton for hym in this mater to ſchewe hym the more fauor at thys tyme for this my writyng in doyng of eny truble to hym truſting that he wole demeane hym in ſuche wyſe that he ſhal haue no cauſe unto hym but to be his good maſtr as he ſeyth And yf ther be eny thing that I can do for you I wole be right glad to do it And that knoweth Almyghty god whiche haue you in his keping Wretin at Grenewyche the xxviijth day of Auguſt.

J. Beauchamp.

11 ¾ by 5 ¾.

Though this friendly Letter contains nothing curious, yet being written by a nobleman famous for his military exploits and for ſervices rendered to his Sovereigns, I have been induced to give it.

LET-

ſaid Sir John Faſtolf; and as I am informed the ſaid William purpoſeth him to go into his country, for the which cauſe he hath deſired me to write unto you that ye would be a ſpecial good friend unto him, for his ſaid Maſter's ſake, to have all ſuch things as reaſon and conſcience requireth, and that ye would be (*a*) mean unto Paſton for him in this matter, to ſhew him the more favour at this time, for this my writing, in doing of any trouble to him truſting that he will demean him in ſuch wiſe that he ſhall have no cauſe unto him, but to be his good maſter, as he ſaith, and if there be any thing that I can do for you, I will be right glad to do it, and that knoweth Almighty God, which have you in his keeping. Written at Greenwich, the 28th day of Auguſt.

J. BEAUCHAMP.

Greenwich,
28th of Auguſt,
between 1461 and 1466.
1 and 6 E. IV.

John Beauchamp, Lord Beauchamp of Powyk, in Worceſterſhire, was ſo created in 1447. In 1450 he was appointed Lord Treaſurer, and became a Knight of the Garter. He died in 1475, 15 E. IV. and was buried in the Church of the Dominican Friars at Worceſter.

Autograph. Pl. XXIV. N° 2.

LETTER XXVIJ.

To my truſty and welbelowyd
Cojyn Iho' Paſton eſquyer in
haſte.

Loyawlte Ayme.

Be zowr howne

G. Browne.

Hyt ſchal newyr Cum howt ffor me.

8 ¾ by 7.

Sir George Browne, knight, of Beechworth Caſtle, in Surrey, was the ſecond huſband of Elizabeth, the Siſter of J. Paſton, and widow of Robert Poynings; this ſhort Letter was therefore moſt probably written by him to J. Paſton, in the beginning of Edward

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LETTER XXVIJJ.

To my ryght wurſchipfull
Fadre Iohn Paſton.

PLESIT you to wete that I am at Leyn And vnder ſtande be dyv's p[r]ſonys as I am in formed y[t] y[e] [1] Mayſter of Carbroke wold take a rewle in the Mar' Talbot as for capteyn And

We have here a Letter written by John Paſton to his father, from Lynn in Norfolk, at a time when, by the King's command, he was to convey Soldiers from thence to Yarmouth on ſhip board, I ſuppoſe for foreign ſervice. It appears from hence, likewiſe, that the Soldiers wore the Livery of thoſe who retained them.

to

LETTER XXVII.

To my truſty and well-beloved Couſin John Paſton, Eſq. in haſte.

Loyawlte Ayme.
(Love Loyalty.)

By your own

G. BROWNE.

It ſhall never come out for me.

Written moſt probably
between 1461 and 1466.
1 and 6 E. IV.

Edward IVth's reign; it recommends in a friendly manner to him loyalty to the Prince upon the Throne, and ſeems to hint at ſome actions of J. Paſton's done contrary thereto, which had come to Sir George's knowledge, and which he would not diſcloſe.
Autograph. Pl. XXIV. N° 9.

LETTER XXVIII.

To my right worſhipful Father, John Paſton.

PLEASE you to weet that I am at Lynn, and underſtand by divers perſons, as I am informed, that the [1] Maſter of Carbrooke would take a rule in the Mary Talbot as for Captain, and

[1] The Maſter of Carbrooke, I believe means the Maſter of the Commandry of Carbrooke in Norfolk, formerly a Society of Knights Templars, and the only one in the county, who were bound to go on Pilgrimage to Jeruſalem, either as religious Devotees, or as Soldiers to fight againſt the Infidels.

to

93655

to yeue Iaketes of his levʳy to dyvˢ pʳſonis qwych be waged be oder mē And nouth be hym beyng in the ſaid ſhep qwerfor in as moch as I haue but few ſowdeors in myn levʳy her to ſtrenketh me in yat qwych is the Kynges Cōmandement I kepe wᵗ me yowr too mē Dawbenney and Calle qwich I purpoſe ſhall ſeyle wᵗ me to Yermeth for I have purueyed harneyſe for hem and yᵉ ſhall well underſtande be yᵉ grace of god yat the ſaid mayſter of Carbroke ſhall have non rewle in the ſheppes as [2] I had pupoſid he ſhuld have had becauſe of his beſyneſſe and for this is on of the ſpecyall cauſes I kepe yowr ſaid mē wᵗ me beſechyng you yᵉ takyt to non dyſples' of ther taryng wᵗ me nat wᵗſtandyng yer [3] herdē at Wyggenalle ſhall be don this Day be the grace of God whoo have you in kepyng wretē at Leȳn the morow after my depᵗtyng from you.

It' as far ſuch tydynges as be her
Th' ſhall in forme you.

[4] John Paſton.

12 by 4 ¼.

Seal,
A Stag couchant.
Pl. xxviii. N° 4.

2 It appears that in this caſe the Maſter was ſubordinate to J. Paſton, and under his command.

to give Jackets of his Livery to divers perſons which be waged by other men, and not by him, being in the ſaid ſhip; wherefore in as much as I have but few Soldiers in mine Livery here, to ſtrengthen me in that which is the King's Commandment, I keep with me your two men Dawbeney and Calle, which I purpoſe ſhall ſail with me to Yarmouth, for I have purveyed harneſs for them, and ye ſhall well underſtand by the grace of God, that the ſaid Maſter of Carbrooke ſhall have none rule in the Ships, as [2] I had purpoſed he ſhould have had, becauſe of his buſineſs and for this is one of the ſpecial cauſes I keep your ſaid men with me, beſeeching you ye take it to none diſpleaſure with me, notwithſtanding their herden [3] at Wygenhall ſhall be done this day by the grace of God who have you in his keeping. Written at Lynn, the morrow after my departing from you.

Item, as for ſuch tidings as be here

Th. ſhall inform you.

[4] JOHN PASTON.

Written between
1461 and 1466.
1 and 6 E. IV.

[3] I do not underſtood the meaning of the word herden.
This Letter was written between 1461 and 1466.
[4] Autograph. Pl. IV. N° 9.

LET-

LETTER XXIX.

To my right Worchepfull
Maſtres Paſton.

I Recomawnde me to yo^{r} good Maſtreſchep beſechyng yow in y^{e} weye of Charyte and as I maye be yo^{r} bedeman and ſerv'nt y^{t} ye wyll lete me haue wetyng hoghe I maye be rewelyd ageyns y^{e} neſt Schyer it is ſeyd y^{t} ther xal be mych more pepyll than was y^{e} laſt and alſo if I be in my ladys place or in ony oy^{t} in y^{e} town I xall be takyn owte alſo maſtres y^{t} my Mayſtyr Radclyffs xal take all my catell and all oy^{r} pore good y^{t} I haue and ſo but I maye haue helpe of my Mayſt^{r} and of yow I am but loſt Alſo my ſerv'nt Maryot wyll go fro my wyfe to my ryght gret hurte Wherfore Maſtres I beſech yo^{r} help in all thes and I xal content y^{e} Coſts as ye xall be pleſyd be y^{e} g'ce of God hoo eu^{r} p'ſerve yow &c. Alſo Maſtres I can not be w^{t} owte yo^{u} c^{n}t$\bar{y}$all help but I muſt ſelle or lete to ferme all y' I haue Maſtres my lady ſent to Cawnbrygg for a Doctor of Feſyk if y^{e} wyll ony thyng w^{t} hym he xal abyde y^{is} daye and to morwe he is ryght a konnyng man and gentyll.

11 ¼ by 3¾.

As this Letter has no ſubſcription, the writer cannot be aſcertained, though it appears to be written by one who had ſome concern at the county court, where election, or other county diſputes, ſeemed to be expected to come on.

LETTER XXIX.

To my right worſhipful Miſtreſs Paſton.

I Recommend me to your good Miſtreſsſhip, beſeeching you in the way of charity, and as I may be your beadſman and ſervant, that ye will let me have weeting how I may be ruled againſt the next ſhire; it is ſaid that there ſhall be much more people than were the laſt; and alſo if I be in my Lady's place or in any other in the town, I ſhall be taken out. Alſo Miſtreſs that my Maſter Radcliff ſhall take all my catell (*chattels*) and all other poor good that I have, and ſo but (*unleſs*) I may have help of my Maſter and of you, I am but loſt. Alſo my ſervant Maryot will go from my wife to my right great hurt, wherefore Miſtreſs I beſeech your help in all theſe, and I ſhall content the coſts as ye ſhall be pleaſed by the grace of God, who ever preſerve you, &c.

Alſo Miſtreſs I cannot be without your continual help, but I muſt ſell or let to farm all that I have.

Miſtreſs my Lady ſent to Cambridge for a Doctor of Phyſic, if ye will any thing with him, he ſhall abide this day and tomorrow, he is right a cunning (*ſkillful*) man, and a gentle.

Written
Between 1461 and 1466.
1 and 6 E. IV.

He was probably a retainer of ſome great man or lady, whoſe intereſt he was to ſupport.

The being obliged to ſend as far as Cambridge for a Phyſician muſt have been both troubleſome and expenſive.

LETTER XXX.

To my right wurchepfull
huſband John Paſton.

RIGHT Wurchepfull huſbond I recomaund me to you Pleaſe it you to wete that myn Awnte is diſſeſid whos ſowle god aſſoyll And if it pleaſe you to ſend word how ye wull y^t^ we do for the lifflode that ſhe had at Walcote whed^r^ ye wull y^t^ any body take poſſeſſion thir in yo^r^ name or not And if it like you to haue w^t^ you my Coſyn William her ſone I trow ye ſhuld fynde hym a neceſſary man to take hede to yowr howſhold and to bye all man^r^ of ſtuffe nedefull y'to and to ſe to y^e^ rewle and gode gidyn y'of it hath be told me be for y^t^ he can gode ſkill of ſuch thyngs And if ye wull y^t^ I ſend for hym and ſpeke w^t^ hym ther of I ſhall do as ye ſend me word for in feyth it is tyme to crone yo^r^ old officers for diu^r^ſe thyngs wher of I haue know p^r^te be Dawbeney and more I ſhall telle you whan ye Come hame Alſo it is thought be my Coſyn Eliſabeth Clere and y^e^ viker and other y^t^ be yo^r^ frends that it is right neceſſary for you to haue Hew of Fen to be yo^r^ frende in yo^r^ maters for he is callid right feythfull and troſty to his frends y^t^ troſt hym And it is reported her he may do myche w^t^ the Kyng and y^e^ lords And it is ſeid y^t^ he may do myche w^t^ hem y^t^ be yo^r^ adu^r^ſaryes And y'for godds ſake if ye may haue his gode wille

As it is always beſt to have the characters of the writers of theſe Letters from their contemporaries, I have given this Letter as furniſhing us with that of Hugh Fenn.

The mention of pewter veſſel ſhews us what was then faſhionable; and the aunt here mentioned I believe was a Berney.

LETTER XXX.

To my right worſhipful Huſband John Paſton.

RIGHT worſhipful Huſband I recommend me to you, pleaſe it you to weet that mine Aunt is deceaſed, whoſe ſoul God aſſoil, and if it pleaſe you to ſend word how ye will that we do for the livelihood that ſhe had at Walcot, whither ye will that any body take poſſeſſion there in your name or not, and if it like you to have with you my couſin William her ſon, I trow ye ſhould find him a neceſſary man to take heed to your houſehold, and to buy all manner of ſtuff needful thereto, and to ſee to the rule and good guiding thereof, it hath been told me before that he can good ſkill of ſuch things, and if ye will that I ſend for him, and ſpeak with him thereof, I ſhall do as ye ſend me word, for in faith it is time to crone your old officers for divers things whereof I have known part by Dawbeney, and more I ſhall tell you when ye come home.

Alſo it is thought by my Couſin Elizabeth Clere, and the vicar, and others, that be your friends, that it is right neceſſary for you to have Hew (*Hugh*) of Fenn to be your friend in your matters, for he is called right faithful and truſty to his friends that truſt him, and as it is reported here, he may do much with the King and the Lords; and it is ſaid that he may do much with them that be your adverſaries, and therefore for God's ſake,

This Letter appears to have been written after the deceaſe of Sir John Faſtolf, and in the beginning of the reign of Edward IV.

Autograph, Pl. II. N° 25.

forſake it not Alſo it is thought the more lerned men that ye haue of yo^r owyn Contre of yo^r Counſell The more wurchepful it is to you.

Alſo if ye be at home this Criſtmes it wer wele do ye ſhuld do p^ruey a Garnyſsh or tweyn of Powt^r veſsheil ij baſanes and ij hewers and xij Candleſtikes for ye have to few of any of thes to ſ'ue this place I am a ferd to p^rvey mych ſtuffe in this place till we be ſuerrer y'of.

The bliſſid T'nyte haue you in his bliſſid kepyng Wretyn the Thurſday next aft^r ſent Andrew.

Be yow^r

M. P.

11 ¾ by 8 ½.

LETTER XXXJ.

To my Right Worchipfull
S^r And my Right good Neveu
Iohn Paſton ſquyer be this l're
delyv^red &c.

RIGHT worchipfull S^r And my Right good Neveu I re-comand me un to you w^t all myn herte plece it you to undyrſtande the grete neſſeſſyte of my Wrytyng to you is this that ther was made an exchaunge be the Graunſyre of my hoſ-bonds Mundeford un hoſe ſowle god have mercy of the maner

if ye may have his good will, forſake it not; alſo it is thought the more learned men ye have of your own country of your counſel, the more worſhipful it is to you.

Alſo, if ye be at home this Chriſtmas, it were well done ye ſhould do purvey a garniſh or twain of pewter veſſel, two baſins and two ewers, and twelve candleſticks, for ye have too few of any of theſe to ſerve this place; I am afraid to purvey much ſtuff in this place till we be ſurer thereof. The bleſſed Trinity have you in his bleſſed keeping. Written the Thurſday next after Saint Andrew

By your

MARGARET PASTON.

Thurſday, December between 1461 and 1466. 1 and 6 E. IV.

LETTER XXXI.

To my right worſhipful Sir, and my right good Nephew, John Paſton, Eſq. be this Letter delivered, &c.

RIGHT worſhipful Sir, and my right good Nephew, I recommend me unto you with all mine heart; pleaſe it you to underſtand the great neceſſity of my writing to you is this, that there was made an exchange by the Grandſire of my huſband Mundeford, on whoſe ſoul God have mercy! of the manor of

of Greſſenale w^t the Aunſetrys of Rows for the maner of Eſtlexham the qwych is parte of my juntor and my Grauntfadyr Mundeford recoweryd the ſaid maner of Eſtlexham be [1] Aſſyze A geyne the Aunſetrys of Rows And ſo madyt clere And nowe have Edm' [2] Rows claymyt the ſeyd maner of Eſtlexham be the verteu of a tayle And hathe takyn poſſeſſeon And made a feffement to my lord of [3] Warewyke and Water [4] Gorge and to [5] Curde And un Fryday be for ſeynt Walentyne is day Water Gorge And Curde enteryd And toke poſſeſſyon for my ſeyd lord of Warewyke And ſo bothe the forſeyd manerys were on-tayled And at the tyme of the exchaunge made the tayles And Evydens of bothe for ſeyd manerys were delyv'ed un to the partyes indeferently be the avyſe of men lernyd qwerfor I beſhech you that it pleſe you to take the grete labor upon you to informe my lordys good lordchep of the trowthe in the forme A bowyn Wretren And that it pleſe you to vndyrſtand qwedyr that my lord wyll a byde be the feffment made to hym or not And that it ſhall pleſe my lord that I may haue Right as lawe requeryt for I truſt to God be ſoche tyme as my lord ſhall be informyd of the trowthe be you that heſe lordchip wyll not ſupportt the forſeyd Rows A geyne my Right And if I hadde very vndyrſtandyng that my lord would take no parte in the mat' A bowe ſeyd I would truſt to godd's merſy And to you And other of my good fryndes to

We have here a curious inſtance of a Perſon illegally recovering an eſtate by making a great man a party in the proceedings, for ſuch manifeſtly appears to have been the caſe here, where Rous takes poſſeſſion of the Manor of Eaſt Lexham, and then makes a feoff-ment of it to the Earl of Warwick, thinking that no one would dare to diſpute his title when ſanctioned by this Nobleman.

[1] Aſſize is a Writ directed to the Sheriff of the county for recovery of the poſſeſſion of things immoveable, whereof yourſelf or Anceſtors have been diſpoſſeſſed.

haue

of Greſſenhall with the Anceſtors of Rous for the manor of Eaſt Lexham, the which is part of my jointure, and my Grandfather Mundeford recovered the ſaid manor of Eaſt Lexham by [1] Aſſize againſt the Anceſtors of Rous, and ſo made it clear; and now have Edmund [2] Rous claimed the ſaid manor of Eaſt Lexham by the virtue of a tail *(an entail)*, and hath taken poſſeſſion, and made a feoffment to my Lord of [3] Warwick, and Walter [4] Gorge, and to [5] Curde; and on Friday before Saint Valentine's day Walter Gorge and Curde entered and took poſſeſſion for my ſaid Lord of Warwick, and ſo both the foreſaid manors were untailed; and at the ſame time of the exchange made, the tails and evidence of both (*the*) foreſaid manors were delivered unto the parties indifferently by the advice of men learned; whereforeI beſeech you that it pleaſe you to take the great labour upon you to inform my Lord's good Lordſhip of the truth in the form above written, and that it pleaſe you to underſtand, whether that my Lord will abide by the feoffment made to him or not, and that it ſhall pleaſe my Lord that I may have right, as law require it, for I truſt to God by ſuch time as my Lord ſhall be informed of the truth by you, that his Lordſhip will not ſupport the foreſaid Rous againſt my right; and if I had very underſtanding that my Lord would take no part in the matter aboveſaid, I would truſt to God's mercy, and to you, and other of my good friends to have poſſeſſion again in

[2] Edmund Rous was ſecond ſon of Henry Rous, Eſq. of Dennington, in Suffolk, the Anceſtor of the preſent family, which had the title of Baronet conferred upon the head of it in 1660.

[3] Richard Neville, Earl of Warwick.

[4] Walter Gorges, Eſq. married Mary the daughter and heir of Sir William Oldhall, and was at this time Lord of the Manor of Oldhall, in Great Franſham; he died in 1466. His ſon and heir, Sir Edmund Gorges, afterwards married a daughter of Sir John Howard, Knight, the firſt Duke of Norfolk of that family.

[5] John Curde was Lord of the Manor of Curde's hall, in Franſham.

right

haue poſſeſſion A geyne in Right haſty tyme beſhechyng you to p[r]don me of my ſymple Wrytyng for hadde no leyſer Right Worchipfull And my Right good Neveu I beſhech the blyſſed Trenyte haue you in heſe gracyous kepyng Wreten at Norwych in grete haſt the Tewyſday. next aftyr ſeynt Walentyne is day.

Youze ovyn,

[6] Elizabeth Mundeford.

11 ½ by 8 ¾.

Paper Mark,
A Bull's Head and Star.
Pl. VIII. N° 2.

[6] Elizabeth Mundeford was the widow of Oſbert Mundeford, Eſq. of Hockwold, in Norfolk, and was daughter of John Berney, Eſq. by which means ſhe was aunt to J. Paſton. Autograph. Pl. XXV. N° 43.

LETTER XXXJ.

To the right rev[r]ent and
w[r]ſhipfull S[r] my right
hono[r]able Mayſtyr Iohn
Paſton.

RIGHT w[r]ſhipfull S[r] and my right hono[r]able Maiſtir I recomaunde me to you in my moſt humble wiſe And pleſe it youre good maiſtirſhyp to wete that it is ſeyd here that my lord w[r]ceſtre is lyk to be treſorer w[t] whom I truſte ye ſtonde right wel in conſeit w[t] whiche god contynwe wherfor I beſeke youre maiſtirſhipp that if my ſeid lord have the ſeid office that it

lyke

right haſty time, beſeeching you to pardon me of my ſimple writing for *(I)* had no leiſure; Right worſhipful and my right good Nephew I beſeech the bleſſed Trinity have you in his gracious keeping. Written at Norwich in great haſte the Tueſday next after Saint Valentine's day.

Your own,

[6] ELIZABETH MUNDEFORD.

Norwich,
Tueſday, February,
Between 1461 and 1466.
1 and 6 E. IV.

This Letter was written between 1461 and 1466, but the exact year cannot be aſcertained.

LETTER XXXII.

To the right reverend and worſhipful Sir, my right honourable Maſter, John Paſton.

RIGHT worſhipful Sir, and my right honourable Maſter, I recommend me to you in my moſt humble wiſe, and pleaſe it your good maſterſhip to weet, that it is ſaid here, that my Lord Worceſter is like to be Treaſurer, with whom I truſt ye ſtand right well in conceit, with which God continue; wherefore I beſeech your maſterſhip that if my ſaid Lord have the ſaid

lyke you to deſyre the nomynacion of on of the officez eythyr of the countroller or S^r.chorſhip of Iernemuth for a f^rvaunt of yowrez and I ſhuld ſo gyde me in the office as I truſte ſhuld be moſt p'fit to my ſeyd lord and if yo're maiſtirſhyp lyked to gete graunt thereof that than it pleſyd you to lycenſe on of yo're f^rvaunts to take out the patent of the ſeyd office and if it coſt v or vj or viij marke I ſhal trewly contente it ageyn and yeerly as longe as I myght have the officez or any of hem I ſhal geve my maiſt^r youre Sone V m^arke toward an Haukeney it ſhuld be to me right a good mean to ſtondyn as well in the truſt as in the Conſeyt amongs marchaunts w^t whom and w^t alle men I calle myſelf a f^rvaunt of yo'rez and ſoo wil do if it pleſe you which boldyth me the more to calle upon youre right wurſhipful maiſtyrſhyp in this mater where in I beſeke you to forgeve me my boldneyſe in thys behalve And if I knew that my lord ſhuld haue the office in f^rtayn than I wold wayte upon youre good mayſtyrſhyp there to opteyne the patent if it pleſyd youre good mayſtirſhip to gete me the graunt &c. No more on to you my right hono^rable maiſt^r at thys tyme but Ihu I beſeke ſende you a good Conclucyon in all yore maters and graunt you ev^r yo're herts deſyre.

Yore contynwal S^rvaunt and bedeman,

John Ruſſe.

11 ½ by 7.

Seal,
A Croſs Flory.
Pl. XIV. N° 21.

This Letter contains a curious circumſtance, it ſhews us a perſon petitioning for a place and promiſing, if he ſhould be ſucceſsful, he would make the Son of the perſon, through whoſe intereſt he obtained it, an annual preſent of five marks.

office, that it like you to deſire the nomination of one of the offices, either of the Controuller or Searcherſhip of Yarmouth for a ſervant of yours; and I ſhould ſo guide me in the office as I truſt ſhould be moſt profit to my ſaid Lord; and if your maſterſhip liked to get grant thereof, that then it pleaſe you to licence one of your ſervants to take out the patent of the ſaid office, and if it coſt five, or ſix, or eight Marks (3*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* *or* 4*l.* *or* 5*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*) I ſhall truly content it again; and yearly as long as I might have the offices, or any of them, I ſhall give my maſter your ſon five marks *(3l. 6s. 8d.)* toward an Hackney *(a pacing horſe)*.

It ſhould be to me right a good mean to ſtand as well in the truſt as in the conceit amongſt merchants, with whom and with all men, I call myſelf a ſervant of yours, and ſo will do, if it pleaſe you, which boldeth (*emboldens*) me the more to call upon your worſhipful maſterſhip in this matter, wherein I beſeech you to forgive me my boldneſs in this behalf. And if I knew that my Lord ſhould have the office in certain then I would wait upon your good maſterſhip there to obtain the patent, if it pleaſed your good maſterſhip to get me the grant, &c.

No more unto you my right honourable maſter at this time, but Jeſu I beſeech ſend you a good concluſion in all your matters, and grant you ever your heart's deſire.

Your continual Servant and Beadſman,

JOHN RUSSE.

1462. 2 E. IV.

May we not compare this tranſaction with thoſe of modern times? John Tiptoft, Earl of Worceſter, was appointed Lord Treaſurer in 1462, which office he had alſo before held in the late King's reign. On the re-acceſſion of Henry VI. he was taken priſoner, unjuſtly accuſed of cruelty, convicted, and in October 1470 beheaded.

Autograph. Pl. v. N° 18.

LETTER XXXIII.

MOST worchepfull and my ryght ſpecyall good modyr as humbylly as I can I recomand me on to yow beſechyng yow of your blyſſyng pleaſe it yow to vndyrſtand that thys day I ſpake wt bacheler Water whiche let me haue undyrſtandyng of yor welfare wherof I thank god wt all my hert, Alſo he leet me haue knowlage that the lord Scalys had g'untyd yow to be my good lord wherof I am no thyng prowd for he may do leeſt wt the gret Maſtyr but he wold depert ovyr the See as haſtyly as he may and becauſe he wenyth that J wold go wt hym as I had promyſeyd hym euyr and he had kept foorthe hys Iornay at that tyme thys is the cauſe that he wyll be my good lord and help to get my pardon the Kyng is not beſt pleaſyd wt hym for that he deſyerthe to depert In ſo myche that the Kyng hathe ſeyd of hym that wen evyr he hathe moſt to do then the lord Scalys wyll ſoneſt axe leve to depert and weenyth that it is moſt be cauſe

This Letter was moſt probably written early in the reign of Edward IV. but in what year I cannot eaſily determine.

The Pardon of J. Paſton here mentioned muſt have reference to the late change of the Government, and the reſtleſſneſs of the Scotch and Welſh alludes to the time when Queen Margaret was ſoliciting their aſſiſtance, I believe.

The reflections here thrown upon the courage of Lord Scales are new and I ſhould think not well founded, as his character has ever been handed down to us, as that of a Nobleman highly diſtinguiſhed for deeds of arms, not only againſt the enemies of his country, but in the gallant feats of chivalry; yet we have the authority of the King for the inſinuation here thrown out by J. Paſton.

There

LETTER XXXIII.

To Miſtreſs Margaret Paſton.

MOST worſhipful and my moſt ſpecial good Mother, as humbly as I can, I recommend me unto you, beſeeching you of your bleſſing; pleaſe it you to underſtand that this day I ſpake with Batchelor Water which let me have underſtanding of your welfare, whereof I thank God with all my heart; alſo he let me have knowledge that the Lord Scales had granted you to be my good Lord, whereof I am nothing proud for he may do leaſt with the great maſter, but he would depart over the ſea, as haſtily as he may, and becauſe he weeneth that I would go with him as I had promiſed him ever, and he had kept forth his journey at that time; this is the cauſe that he will be my good Lord and help to get my pardon; the King is not beſt pleaſed with him for that he deſireth to depart, in ſo much that the King hath ſaid of him, that whenſoever he hath moſt to do then the Lord Scales will ſureſt aſk leave to depart, and weeneth that it is moſt becauſe of cowardice.

There was, however, at this time ſome diſagreement between theſe ſpirited young men, which ſoon ſubſided; and my Lord Scales afterwards became his warm friend and advocate.

We muſt, therefore, make ſome allowance for the aſperity of the expreſſions here recorded, and conſider them as the haſty words of a young man uttered in a moment of anger. Anthony Widville was ſummoned to parliament as Lord Scales in 1461, and by the death of his father in 1469 became Earl Rivers; this Letter, therefore, muſt have been written between thoſe years, if my former ſuppoſition ſhould be wrong.

Autograph. Pl. IV. N° 10.

As

cauſe of Kowardyeſe as for pardon I can neu^{r} get w^{t} owght J ſchold paye to myche money for it and J am not ſo p^{r}veyd as for Herry Hallman my Brodyr wyll axe hym no ſylver tyll ye be payeyd therfor ye may ſend to hym and haue it It' I am ſory that ye have fadyrd my hors y^{t} was at Caſter to be my Brodyr Edmundys for I had leveer y^{t} they had hym ſtyle then owght ellys Wherfor thow they profyr hym yow fro henſe foorthe let not my brodyr Edmūd take hym but let hym ſey whedyr they wyll let hym haue hym or not that I haue promy-ſeyd my brodyr Edmūd a bettyr hors for hym ſo that he wyll not cleyme the ſame for hys As for tydyngs her be non but y^{t} the Scottys and Walyſhe men be beſy what they meane I can not ſeye my Coſyn Iohn Loveday can tell yow and ther be eny odyr flyeyng talys for he hathe walkyd in london and ſo do not I when I may J wyll com hom w^{t} godys grace whom I beſeche to ſende you yo^{r} hertys deſyeyr Wretyn the v daye of Iulle.

By yo^{r} humbleſt ſone and ſervāt

J. P.

Paper Mark,
A Pillar.
Pl. xxvii. N° 5.

LET-

As for pardon I can never get, without I ſhould pay too much money for it, and I am not ſo purveyed.

As for Harry Halman my brother will aſk him no ſilver till ye be paid, therefore ye may ſend to him and have it.

Item, I am ſorry that ye have fadyrd *(fathered)* my horſe that was at Caiſter to be my brother Edmund's, for I had lever (*rather*) that they had him ſtill than ought elſe, wherefore though they proffer him you from henceforth let not my brother Edmund take him, but let him ſay, whether they will let him have him or not, that I have promiſed my brother Edmund a better horſe for him, ſo that he will not claim the ſame for his.

As for tidings here be none but that the Scots and Welſh men be buſy, what they mean I cannot ſay, my couſin John Loveday can tell you and there be any other flying tales, for he hath walked in London and ſo do not I, when I may I will come home with God's grace, whom I beſeech to ſend you your heart's deſire. Written the 5th day of July,

By your humbleſt Son and Servant,

JOHN PASTON.

5 July, between 1461 and 1469.
1 and 9 E. IV.

LET-

LETTER XXXJU.

To the right wʳſhypful
my right honʳabyl mayſtʳ
Iohn Paſton.

RIGHT wʳſhipfull Sʳ and my right honoʳabill maiſtʳ I re-comaund me to you jn my moſt humble wyſe and pleaſe your maiſtʳſhip to wete that here is on Thom's Chapman an evyl diſpoſyd man al wey ayens you as I haue Jnformyd yo're maiſtirſhip many tymes and now he hathe labo'ryd to my lord Treſorer to ſubplante me and brought down wryghting from the Kyng and my lord Treſorer but or hiſe wryting cam Wydwell fond the meanys be the ſupportacion of Maiſtʳ Feen that we had a diſcharge for hym out of the Chauncery Wherfor the ſeyd Chapman p'poſyth to be at London in all haſte and to avʳtiſe the Kyng and my Lord Treſorer ageyn me to the gretteſt hurt the can Imagyne wherfor I beſeke yo're mayſtirſhip conſedryng is evyl diſpoſecion to yow and alſo the rather at my pore Inſtaunce that ye lyke that my lord Treſorer myght undyrſtonde that he ſeyd Chapman is of no reputacion but evyl diſpoſyd to brybory of Straungers and be colour of hiſe office of ſupʳviſor of the fʳche ſhal gretly hurte the port the ſeyd Chapman ſupportors is Blakeney clerk of the ſygnet and Au'ey Cornburght yoman of the Kyng's Chau'bre he hathe here of Auʳeyes xxiiij Tune wyn

The date of this Letter cannot be exactly aſcertained; it muſt have been written after the preceding one, as J. Ruſſe ſeems now to be in office at Yarmouth. He ſpeaks freely of Chapman, and as freely tells J. Paſton of the common voice againſt him.

I have given this Letter for the ſtrictures it contains on the character of J. Paſton, and to ſhew the anxiety of the Writer of it, for the good of his Maſter.

LETTER XXXIV.

To the right worſhipful my right honourable Maſter John Paſton.

RIGHT worſhipful Sir, and my right honourable Maſter, I recommend me to you in my moſt humble wiſe, and pleaſe your maſterſhip to weet, that here is one Thomas Chapman, an evil diſpoſed man alway againſt you, as I have informed your maſterſhip many times, and now he hath laboured to my Lord Treaſurer to ſupplant me, and (*hath*) brought down writing from the King and my Lord Treaſurer; but, ere his writing came, Wydeville found the means, by the ſupportation of Maſter Fenn, that we had a diſcharge for him out of Chancery; wherefore the ſaid Chapman propoſeth to be at London in all haſte, and to advertiſe the King and my Lord Treaſurer againſt me, to the greateſt hurt he can imagine: wherefore I beſeech your maſterſhip conſidering his evil diſpoſition to you, and alſo the rather at my poor inſtance, that ye like that my Lord Treaſurer might underſtand that the ſaid Chapman is of no reputation, but evil diſpoſed to bribery of Strangers, and by colour of his office of Superviſor of the Search ſhall greatly hurt the Port; the ſaid Chapman's ſupporters is Blakeney, Clerk of the Signet, and Avery Cornburgh, Yeoman of the King's Chamber; he hath here of

Autograph. Pl. v. N° 18. Seal. Pl. xiv. N° 21.

Maſter Fenn, here mentioned, appears to have been a Lawyer of eminence, and was a perſon in great confidence with J. Paſton, &c. as may be collected from ſeveral of the Letters in this collection.

whereof at the long wey he ſhal make the ſeyd Au'ey a lewd rekenyng the ſeyd Chapman louyth not you nor no man to yow wards &c. Sr I prey god brynge you onys to regne amongs youre cuntre men in love and to be dred the lenger ye contynwe there the more hurt growyth to you men ſey ye will neyther folwe the avyſe of youre owyn kynred nor of youre Counſell but contynwe your owyn wylfullneſſe whiche but grace be ſhal be youre diſtrucion it is my part to enforme youre maiſtirſhyp as the Comown voyſe is god betir it and graunt yow onys herts eaſe for it is half a deth to me to here the genrall voyſe of the pepyll whiche dayli encreaſſyth &c. Sr I beſeke youre maiſtirſhyp to remēbre my mayſtreſſe for the lytil ſylvir whiche for ſrteyn thyngs delyvrid to youre uſe is dewe to me J haue nede of it now I haue bought ſalt and other thyngs whiche hathe brought me out of myche ſylvir I wold truſt and I nedyd to borwe xx li. yo're maiſtrſhyp wold eaſe me for a tyme but thys that I deſyre is myn owyn dute and Jhu graunt yow evr yowr herts deſyre to yo're wrſhyp and profyt and p'ſrve yow my right honorabyll maiſtr from all advrſyte Wretyn at Iernemuthe the xv day of Iuly here is a Kervyl of Cane in Normandy and he takyth Duchemen and raunſumyth hem grevouſly.

Yore ſrvaunt and bedman

John Huſſe.

12 by 8 ½.
Paper Mark,
Bull's Head and Star.
Pl. IX. N° 12,

L C C.

Avery's twenty-four Tuns (*of*) Wine, whereof at the long way, he ſhall make the ſaid Avery a lewd (*bad*) reckoning; the ſaid Chapman loveth not you, nor no man to you ward, &c.

Sir, I pray God bring you once to reign among your countrymen in love, and to be dreaded; the longer ye continue there the more hurt groweth to you; men ſay ye will neither follow the advice of your own kindred, nor of your counſel, but only your own wilfulneſs, and which, but grace be, ſhall be your deſtruction.

It is my part to inform your maſterſhip as the common voice is, God better it, and grant you once heart's eaſe; for it is half a death to me to hear the general voice of the people, which daily encreaſeth, &c.

Sir, I beſeech your maſterſhip to remember my miſtreſs for the little ſilver, which, for certain things delivered to your uſe, is due to me, I have need of it now, I have bought Salt and other things, which hath brought me out of much ſilver, I would truſt and (*if*) I needed to borrow twenty pounds your maſterſhip would eaſe me for a time, but this that I deſire is mine own duty. And Jeſu grant you ever your heart's deſire to your worſhip and profit, and preſerve you my right honourable maſter from all adverſity.

Written at Yarmouth, the 15th day of July. Here is a Carvel of Caen, in Normandy, and he taketh Dutchmen, and ranſometh them grievouſly.

Your Servant and Beadſman

JOHN RUSSE.

Yarmouth,
15 July, 1462, or 1463.
2 or 3 E. IV.

LETTER XXXII.

To my rigth good maiſtr
Iohn Paſton the oldeſt
beȳg at Heyleſdon beſyde
Norwiche in haſt.

PLEASE yor maiſtrſhip wete that Xpofer Hanſon is ded and beryed and as for exec' or teſtamet he mad non.

As for tydyngs the Erles of Warr of Eſſex lord Wenlok Byſshop of Dereh'm and oyr go in.to Scotland of Jnbaſſat And as for the ſege of Kaleys we here no more ther of blyſſed be god ho haue you in his kepyng It' as for Xpofers papers yt longeth to yor ten'nts I haue goten of Will'm Worceſtr And as for al ye remn'nt of Xpofer good Will'm Worceſtr hath ye reule as hym ſemeth moſt cōvenient.

Yor

Thoms
Plapter.

12 by 8 ½.

Paper Mark,
Wheels, &c.
Pl. xxii. N° 10.

This Letter is given as mentioning the death of one of the Writers of Letters in this Collection, and as containing an hiſtorical Fact relative to an embaſſy into Scotland, conſiſting of Richard Neville, Earl of Warwick, Henry Bourchier, Earl of Eſſex, John Lord Wenlock, Laurence Booth, biſhop of Durham, &c.

LETTER XXXV.

To my right good Maſter John Paſton, the oldeſt, being at Helleſdon, beſide Norwich, in haſte.

PLEASE your maſterſhip weet, that Chriſtopher Hanſon is dead and buried, and as for executor or teſtament he made none.

As for tidings the Earls of Warwick, of Eſſex, Lord Wenlock, Biſhop of Durham, and other, go into Scotland of Inbaſſat (*in Embaſſy*).

And as for the ſiege of Calais we hear no more thereof, bleſſed be God, who have you in his keeping.

Item, as for Chriſtopher's papers, that longeth to your tenants, I have gotten (*them*) of William Worceſter, and as for all the remanent of Chriſtopher's goods William Worceſter hath the rule, as (*to*) him ſeemeth moſt convenient.

Your

THOMAS PLAYTERS.

After July, 1462.
2 E. IV.

Autograph. Pl. v. N° 14.
For the time of Chriſtopher's death ſee Letter XVI. Vol. I. p. 270.

LET-

LETTER XXXIJ.

To myn ryth revrent and worſchypfull
Fader Iohn Paſton beyng jn the
Jnder Temple.

RYGHT reverent and wyrſhypfull Fader I recomand me un to you be ſychyng you of your bleſſyng and gode Faderhode Pleaſyt it you to underſtond the grete exp'ns that I haue dayly travelyng wt the Kyng as the berr here of Can enfrme you and howe long that I am lyke to tary her in thys coun'ty or I may ſpeke wt you a gayn and howe I am chargyd to haue myn hors and harnys redy and in haſty wyſe beſykyng you to Conſyder theys cauſes and ſo to remembr me that I may haue ſuche thynges as I may do my mayſter ſervys wt and pleaſur truſting in god it ſchall be to your wyrſhyp and to myn and vayll in eſpeciall I beſyche you that I may be Sur where to haue mony ſomwhat be fore Eſtern other of you or by myn Uncle Clement when nede ys of othir cauſes the berr hereof Can enfrme you No more to you at thys tyme but god haue you in hys kepyng Wryten at Stamford the xiij day of March.

Be yowr ſone and ſervant

John Paſton, pe older.

11 ½ by 4 ½.
Paper Mark,
Bull's Head and Star.
Pl. VIII. N° 2.

This Letter dated from Stamford (either in Northumberland or Yorkſhire,) appears to have been written in March 1462-3, when the King had an Army in the North to act againſt the Scots, who had made ſeveral attempts in favour of Henry and Margaret.

The Letter is written in an eaſy and dutiful ſtyle, and the requeſt in it ſeems reaſonable from a young man attending his royal maſter in the field.

LET.

LETTER XXXVI.

To mine right reverend and worſhipful Father John Paſton, being in the Inner Temple.

RIGHT reverend and worſhipful Father, I recommend me unto you, beſeeching you of your bleſſing and good fatherhood. Pleaſe it you to underſtand the great expence that I have daily travelling with the King, as the bearer hereof can inform you, and how long that I am like to tarry here in this country ere I may ſpeak with you again, and how I am charged to have mine horſe and harneſs ready, and in haſty wiſe, beſeeching you to conſider theſe cauſes, and ſo to remember me that I may have ſuch things as I may do my maſter ſervice with and pleaſure, truſting in God it ſhall be to your worſhip and to mine avail, in eſpecial I beſeech you, that I may be ſure where to have money ſomewhat before Eaſter either of you, or by mine Uncle Clement when need is, of other cauſes the bearer hereof can inform you. No more to you at this time, but God have you in his keeping.

Written at Stamford, the 13th day of March.

By your Son and Servant

JOHN PASTON, the older.

Stamford,
Sunday, 13th of March, 1462-3.
3 E. IV.

In the year 1463 Eaſter Sunday fell upon the 10th of April, which gave a ſufficient time for his Father to have money ready for him according to his requeſt.

Autograph. Pl. xx. N° 29. He ſubſcribes himſelf the elder, to diſtinguiſh himſelf from his younger Brother John Paſton.

LETTER XXXVII.

To my Worch'ppefull Maſtr
Maſtr Paſton ye heldeſt.

RYTH worchepfull Maſtr I Recōmend me on to zowr Maſtr-chepe and of on matt at reverens of God take hede for in trowth I her meche talkyng y'of and yt is both in Norffolk Suffolk and Norwyche among halle men of Worchepe as welle yt love zow as odr and yt is of my maſtr zowr Son Syr Ion cauſſe he is So at home and no nodrwyſe fet for ſūme ſey yt ze and he both ſtond howth of ye kyngs good gras and ſūme ſey yt ze kepe hym at home for negard chepe and wyll no thyng war up on hym and ſo heche man ſey is auyſe as it pleſe hem to talke And I haue hanqwerryd and ſeyd ye moſt cauſe is inp'ty for cauſe ze har ſo meche howte yt he is ye rather at home for ye Saue gard of the Coſts But at ye referens of god excheuȳg of eomōn langage Se yt he may worchepfull be ſet for heydr in ye kyngs ſervyſe or in Maryache For as for towchȳg ye lady [1] Chaberlē

This Letter contains nothing by which we can exactly fix the date, though it muſt have been written between 1462 and 1465, as it appears from it that J. Paſton's ſon had been knighted. The hint of him and his ſon being out of the King's good grace, would fix it about 1465, as in 1466 J. Paſton was committed to the Fleet, and died the ſame year.

The exact date, however, is immaterial, the character of the father being the object of the reader's notice.

[1] This Lady Chamberlayne was Anne, daughter and ſole heir of Sir Robert Herling, knight, by Jane, daughter and heir of John Gonvile, Eſq. She married to her firſt huſband Sir William Chamberlayne, Knight of the Garter, a renowned and valiant ſoldier, who

LETTER XXXVII.

To my worſhipful Maſter, Maſter Paſton the eldeſt.

RIGHT worſhipful Maſter, I recommend me unto your Maſterſhip, and of one matter at reverence of God take heed, for in truth I hear much talking thereof, and that is both in Norfolk, Suffolk, and Norwich among all men of worſhip, as well that love you as others, and that is of my maſter, your ſon Sir John, becauſe he is ſo at home, and none other wiſe ſet for *(provided for)*. Some ſay that ye and he both ſtand out of the King's good grace, and ſome ſay that ye keep him at home for negardchepe (*niggardſhip, covetouſneſs*), and will no thing ware (*ſpend*) upon him, and ſo each man ſay his advice as it pleaſe him to talk; and I have enquired, and ſaid the moſt cauſe is in part, for cauſe ye are ſo much out, that he is the rather at home for the ſafeguard of the coaſts. But at the reverence of God for eſchewing of common language, ſee that he may worſhipfully beſet for *(provided for)*, either in the King's ſervice, or in marriage; for as for touching the Lady [1] Chamberlayne that matter

who died in 1462. She was at this time his widow, and inherited from her father a very conſiderable fortune.

She afterwards married Sir Robert Wingfield, and after his deceaſe ſhe became the wife of John Lord Scroop of Bolton.

By the name of Lady Scroop ſhe founded and endowed a Fellowſhip in the College of Gonville and Caius at Cambridge, originally founded by an Anceſtor of her Ladyſhip's.

She was born in 1426, and was alive in 1502.

At the time this letter was writing ſhe muſt have been nearly forty years old, when Sir John Paſton could not have been much above twenty.

berlē y^{t} mat^{r} is don for I ſpake w^{t} y^{e} p^{r}ſon y'of and I hard be hym y^{t} yat mat^{r} wyll not pre No more but God ſpede zow as well in all maters as I wold ze xuld do J be ſeche zow y^{t} yis let^{r} be kept ſecrete.

Be zow bede man

[2] A. C. V. C.

Paper Mark,
Hand and Flower.
Pl. XXVII. N° 11.

[2] Autograph. Pl. XXV. N° 15.

LETTER XXXVIII.

To my Right Wurſhepfull
Maſtres my Maſtres Margret
Paſton at Caſter.

PLEASE it yo^{r} good maſtreſship to wete y^{t} a [1] fieri fac' is come out of the Exchequir for Hue Fen to the Shireff of Norff to make levy of CC m'rk of the p'pir goods and catels of my maſters as executor of S^{r} Iohn Faſtolf of whech fieri fac' we ſent my maſter word whech ſent us word ayen by Berney y^{t} we ſhuld lete the Shiref undirſtand that my maſter nevir toke upon hym as executor and ſo for y^{t} cauſe y^{t} writte was no warant to

[1] We have here the whole proceſs of a writ of Fieri Facias, and the ſubterfuges uſed by the defendants to defeat its effect, which they ſeem to have underſtood as well formerly, as in theſe days of modern refinements, and vexatious proceedings.

take

is done for, I ſpake with the parſon thereof, and I heard by him, that that matrer will not pre. *(q. will not ſucceed.)*

No more but God ſpeed you as well in all matters, as I would ye ſhould do, I beſeech you that this letter by kept ſecr e t

By your beadſman,

[2] R. C. V. C.

Between
1462 and 1465.
2 and 5 E. IV.

LETTER XXXVIII.

To my right worſhipful Miſtreſs, my Miſtreſs Margaret Paſton, at Caiſter.

PLEASE it your good miſtreſsſhip to weet, that a [1] Fieri Facias is come out of the Exchequer for Hugh Fenn to the Sheriff of Norfolk to make levy of two hundred marks (133*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*) of the proper goods and chattels of my maſter, as Executor of Sir John Faſtolf, of which Fieri Facias we ſent my maſter word, which ſent us word again by Berney that we ſhould let the Sheriff underſtand that my maſter never took upon him as executor, and ſo for that cauſe that writ was no warrant to

[1] Fieri Facias, is a writ judicial, that lies (at all times within the year and day, for him that hath recovered in an action of debt or damages) to the Sheriff, to command him to levy the debt or damages of his goods againſt whom the recovery was had.

take my maſters goods And alſo y^{t} my maſter mad a dede of gift of all his goods and catels to M' Prewet and Clemēt Paſton and other ſo that my maſter hath no goods whereof he ſhuld make levy of the forſeid ſumme And if the Shireff wold not take this for non Anſwere that thanne my maſter wold he ſhuld be lettid in M' Prowetts and Clemēt Paſtons name nevirtheleſſe we ſpak w^{t} the ſhireff this day and lete hym undirſtand the cauſes aforeſeid and he agreid ſo that he myght haue ſuerte to ſafe hym harmeles to mak ſuch retorne as my maſter or his Counſell coud deviſe and becauſe my maſter wrote by Berney y^{t} he wold not fynd the ſhireff no ſuerte we wold not apoynt w^{t} hym in y^{t} wyſe And ſo we toke Avyſe of Thom's Grene and by cauſe the undirſhireff ſhall be on Monday at Hygh'm by Baſtewyk brygg and he and we thought that it was beſt that M' Prowet ſhuld mete w^{t} the ſhireff there and require and charge hym that by colo^{r} of the forſeid fieri fac' that he make no levy of any goods and catels of the ſeid Prowetts and Clemēt Paſtons ayens the ſeid Iohn Paſtons letyng hym vete that ſuch goods as the ſeid Paſton had be now the ſeid Prowetts and Clemēt Paſtons by vertu of a dede of gift mad to hem almoſt ij yere agoo And if the Shireff woll be beſy aftir y^{t} to take any catell y^{t} he be lettid in maſter Prowetts name and Clemēt Paſtons by Daubeney and other whech beſines of the ſhireff ſhall be on Tuiſday or Wedneſday And as me underſtand at Heyleſdon. Wherfor ye muſt ſend the-

dir:

take my maſter's goods; and alſo that my maſter made a deed of gift of all his goods and chattels to maſter Prowet and Clement Paſton and others, ſo that my maſter hath no goods whereof he ſhould make levy of the foreſaid ſum; and if the Sheriff would not take this for none anſwer that then my maſter would he ſhould be letted (*hindered*) in maſter Prowet's and Clement Paſton's name; nevertheleſs we ſpake with the Sheriff this day, and let him underſtand the cauſes aforeſaid, and he agreed, ſo that he might have ſurety to ſave him harmleſs, to make ſuch return as my maſter of his counſel could deſire, and becauſe my maſter wrote by Berney that he would not find the Sheriff no ſurety, we would not appoint with him in that wiſe; and ſo we took advice of Thomas Green, and becauſe the Under Sheriff ſhall be on Monday at (*Potter*) Heigham, by Baſtwick bridge end, he and we thought that it was beſt that maſter Prowet ſhould meet with the Sheriff there, and require and charge him that by colour of the foreſaid Fieri Facias that he make no levy of any goods and chattels of the ſaid maſter Prowet and Clement Paſton againſt the ſaid John Paſton, letting him weet that ſuch goods, as the ſaid Paſton had, be now the ſaid Prowet's and Clement Paſton's by virture of a deed of gift made to them almoſt two years ago; and if the Sheriff will be buſy after that to take any chattel that he be letted in maſter Prowet's name and Clement Paſton's by Daubeney and others; which buſineſs of the Sheriff ſhall be on Tueſday or Wedneſday, and as we underſtand at Helleſdon, wherefore ye muſt ſend thither

dir Daubeney w^t Pecok and the may gete hym her more felaſep by the Aviſe of maſt^r S^r Iohn Paſton.

[2] James Greſſ'm.

11 ¾ by 8 ½.
Paper Mark,
A Ring.
Pl. xxii. N° 17.

[2] Autograph. Pl. III. N° 28.

LETTER XXXIX.

Unto my mayſtres
Margageret Paſton
be thys letter delyv^ryd
in haſt &c.

RYGHT Wyrſhypſull Mayſtres I recomaund me un to your gode Mayſtreſshyp pleaſe it you to wyte that my Mayſter your hoſbond my Mayſtres youre moder my mayſter * S^r John M' Wyllyam M' Clement and all ther men wer in gode helth whon thys letter was wryten thankyd be Ihu and alſo ther maters be in a gode wey for my lord Chaunſeler ys ther ſyngeler gode lord in thys mater at thys tyme and that it provyth ſo he was yeſterday in the Eſcheker and ther he had a foren hym

This Letter would not have found a place here, but at the requeſt of ſome Friends eminent in the Law, who wiſhed that every Letter, wherein any law proceedings were mentioned, might be given to the public.

thither Daubeney with Peacock, and they may get them there more fellowſhip by the advice of maſter Sir John Paſton.

JAMES GRESHAM.

Written
Between 1462 and 1465.
2 and 5 E. IV.

LETTER XXXIX.

Unto my Miſtreſs Margaret Paſton, be this Letter delivered in haſte.

RIGHT worſhipful miſtreſs, I recommend me unto your good miſtreſsſhip, pleaſe it you to weet that my maſter your huſband, my miſtreſs your mother, my maſter * Sir John, maſter William, maſter Clement, and all their men were in good health when this Letter was written, thanked be Jeſu, and alſo their matters be in a good way, for my Lord Chancellor is their ſingular good Lord in this matter at this time, and that it proveth ſo, he was yeſterday in the Exchequer, and there he had

George Neville, Biſhop of Exeter (or Archbiſhop of York) was Lord Chancellor at this time.

* It appears from this Letter that Sir John Paſton was knighted in the life-time of his Father.

afore

alle the Iuges all the Barons of the Eſcheker and all the Shurgents and ther argued wher that the Barons of the Eſcheker ſhold award any ſuch [1] Comyſſyon or not and uppon that the ſeyd Comyſſyon ſhull be broght uppon Fryday unto the Chaunſery and ther to be provyd wher it be lafull or not &c. It' and yf pleaſe it you to gyve Daveney knowlych that ther ys Jugement gyven uppon the Condempnacon a yenſt Hall that he claymed for hys bond man and the Jugemēt ys gyven a yenſt Daveney Ric Call and Thom's Bon and ther ys Comen owte proces for to take ther bodys thys ſame day and if thay or any of them be taken thay ſhull neu[r] gon ovte of p'ſon on to the tyme that they haue ſatesfyed the [2] party of viij[xx] marc and ther for lete them be ware and The holy trinyte haue you in hys kypyng Wryten at london uppon Thurſday next after the Pur' of our lady &c.

By your ſ[r]vūt

[3] John Wyks.

11 ¼ by 5 ½.

[1] We do not learn what this Commiſſion related to.

[2] The Coſts on this proceſs in favour of the Bondman appear large.

afore him all the Judges, all the Barons of the Exchequer, and all the Serjeants and there argued where (*whether*) that the Barons of the Exchequer ſhould award any ſuch [1] Commiſſion or not, and upon that the ſaid Commiſſion ſhall be brought upon Friday into the Chancery and there to be proved, whether it be lawful or not, &c.

Item, and if it pleaſe you to give Daveney knowledge that there is judgment given upon the condemnation againſt Hall, that he claimed for his Bondman, and the judgment is given againſt Daveney, Richard Call and Thomas Bon, and there is coming out proceſs for to take their bodies this ſame day, and if they or any of them be taken they ſhall never go out of priſon unto the time that they have ſatisfied the party of eight ſcore [2] Marks (106*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*) and therefore let them beware, &c. The Holy Trinity have you in his keeping. Written at London, upon Thurſday next after the purification of our Lady, &c.

By your Servant

[3] JOHN WYKES.

Thurſday, February,
between 1462 and 1465.
2 and 5 E. IV.

[3] Autograph. Pl. v. N° 16. See Letter XI. Vol. I. p. 252.

LETTER XL.

To my moſt Reu'ent
and worchepfull Maiſtr
John Paſton dwellyng at
Heylyſdon be yis delyu'yd.

Ihs

MOST reu'ent and worchepfull Maſtr I Recōmaund me onto yor god maſtrchep pleaſe you to have knowlage on ye Fryday at aftrnoon next aftr ſeynt Pet' Ther was at ye Tau'an in london old Debnam and yong Debnam Thom's Edmōds and I And ther the ſeyd Thom's Edmonds fell jn cōmunicacion wt old Debnam and ſeyd that my [1] lord Treſorer had put hym to a gret Charge for the vetelyng of [2] Mary Talbot ſeyyng to Old Debnam that he hard ſey yt he had a C bulloks to ſelle the wyche ye ſeyd Edmonds wolle bey ſo yt they may a Cord of ye p'c Than the ſeyd old Debnam Anſwerd ageyn and ſeyd he wold ſo yt he myght have good payment or ell ye ſeyd Edmōds to be bound in Abligacon to pay hym at ſuche dayys as they myght a Cord and noon vpon thys ſame langwage yong Debnam ſpake to hys Fadr Sr I p'y you yt ye wolle Take Aviſment of this mater tille to morowe for I troſt to yor good fadrod that ye wolle late me have a frteyn of yor bulloks for the vetelyng of the barge of Yermothe And I ſhall fynd you ſufficiant ſuerte for ye

I have given this Letter for two reaſons, the firſt, as it ſhews the eaſe with which the familiar converſation between the perſons here mentioned is reduced to writing, and the ſecond, as it throws ſome light upon the means uſed for manning and victualling ſuch ſhips as then compoſed the navy of England.

[1] John Tiptoft, Earl of Worceſter, he was beheaded in October 1470.

LETTER XL.

To my moſt reverend and worſhipful Maſter John Paſton, dwelling at Helleſdon, be this delivered.

Ihs

MOST reverend and worſhipful maſter, I recommend me unto your good maſterſhip, pleaſe you to have knowledge, on the Friday at afternoon next after Saint Peter, there was at the Tavern in London old Debenham and young Debenham, Thomas Edmonds and I; and there the ſaid Thomas Edmonds fell in communication with old Debenham, and ſaid that my [1] Lord Treaſurer had put him to a great charge for the victualling of (*the*) [2] Mary Talbot, ſaying to old Debenham, that he heard ſay that he had a hundred Bullocks to ſell, the which the ſaid Edmonds will buy ſo that they may accord of the price; then the ſaid old Debenham anſwered again and ſaid, he would, ſo that he might have good payment, or elſe the ſaid Edmonds to be bound in an obligation to pay him at ſuch days as they might accord; anon upon this ſame language, young Debenham ſpake to his Father, "Sir I pray you that ye will "take aviſement of this matter till to-morrow, for I truſt to your "good fatherhood that ye will let me have a ſerteyn (*a certain "number*) of the bullocks for the victualling of the Barge of "Yarmouth, and I ſhall find you ſufficient ſurety for the pay-

[2] The Mary Talbot, it appears as if this Ship received her name from the bleſſed Virgin, who moſt probably had been implored to protect her, and from the valiant Talbot, Earl of Shrewſbury, who had ſo courageouſly fought in the French wars, this is merely a conjecture, and perhaps an ill founded one.

payment therof for Edmonds I wolle yᵗ ye knowe J have be ther and ſpoke wᵗ yᵉ owner and wᵗ yᵉ maiſtʳ of yᵉ ſeyd barge and they knowyn myn oppoyntment Than yᵉ ſeyd Edmōds Anſwered to yong Debnam and told hym that yᵉ ſety of Norwic and Yermothe hathe grauntyd and ſend wrytyng to yᵉ Kyng and to yᵉ lords that they wolle manne and veteylle yᵉ ſeyd barge of her owne Coſt fro yᵉ tym of hyr goyng owt tylle hyr Comyng home And thus the ſeyd Edmōds told hym that my lord treſorʳ and all yᵉ lords yᵗ be at london thynk they do ryght well her devyʳ and be worthey moche thanke of yᵉ Kyng well q' yong Debnam J had in Cōmaundmēt for to have yᵉ rewle of yᵉ ſeyd barge and I wolle be at Yermothe as thys day iiij dayys and man hyr and bryng hyr downne to yᵉ Gylys of Hulle for yᵗ ys my Chype Alſo he ſeyd mor wᵗ out yᵗ he myght have yᵉ ſeyd barge he wolle note goo to ſee but hym ſelf and hys xxiiij men and thus yf pleaſe yoʳ maiſtʳchep he depʳtyd from yᵉ Tau'an And At hys depʳtyng he told the ſeyd Thom's Edmonds thys ys Paſton labor Than yᵉ ſeyd Edmonds Anſwerd hym ageyn and ſeyd playnly he was to blame for to reporte ſo of yoʳ maſtʳchep for he knoythe veryly he ſeyd on trewly of you and of my maſtʳ yoʳ ſon bothe and ther on he wold take a hothe And ſo yf it pleaſe yoʳ good maſtʳchep late yᵉ Cety of Norwic and Yermothe have knowlage of hys gret Crakyng and boſt and let hym of hys p'poſe be yᵉ Autorite yᵗ they have It' my Maſtʳ yoʳ ſon wolle have to hys Jakets [3] murry and Tany and that it pleaſe yow ſum of my felachep may ſpek to on of yᵉ Drapers for to ordeyn yt Ageyns hys Comyng hom

[3] Dark red or purple, and yellowiſh colour.

for

" ment thereof for Edmonds, I will that ye know I have been " there and ſpoke with the owner and with the maſter of the " ſaid barge, and they know my appointment."

Then the ſaid Edmonds anſwered to young Debenham, and told him that the City of Norwich and Yarmouth hath granted, and ſent writing to the King and to the Lords, that they will man and victual the ſaid barge of their own coſts from the time of her going out till her coming home; and thus the ſaid Edmonds told him that my Lord Treaſurer and all the Lords that be at London think they do right well their devoir *(duty)* and be worthy much thank of the King, " well," quoth young Debenham, " I had in commandment for to have the rule of the " ſaid barge, and I will be at Yarmouth ere this day four days, " and man her and bring her down to the Gylys of Hull for " that is my ſhip."

Alſo, he ſaid more, without that he might have the ſaid barge, he will not go to ſea but himſelf and his twenty-four men, and thus, if pleaſe your maſterſhip, he departed from the Tavern; and at his departing he told the ſaid Thomas Edmonds, " this is Paſton's labour;" then the ſaid Edmonds anſwered him again, and ſaid plainly he was to blame for to report ſo of your maſterſhip, for he knoweth verily he ſaid untruely of you and of my maſter your ſon both, and thereon he would have taken an oath; and ſo, if it pleaſe your good maſterſhip, let the City of Norwich and Yarmouth have knowledge of his great cracking and boaſts, and let (*hinder*) him of his purpoſe by the authority that they have.

Item, my maſter your ſon will have to his Jackets [3] Murrey and Tawney, and that it pleaſe you ſome of my fellowſhip may ſpeak to one of the Drapers for to ordain it againſt his coming home,

for I trowe it ſhall be thys day ſevenyght ar he Comithe home It' S^r^ if pleaſe you Skrowpe hathe ſent to you to london be byngh'm for y^e^ mony y^t^ ye knowe of zit I ſpake not w^t^ hym but J ſhall telle hym y^t^ I Suppoſe ye ſhall be her in y^e^ laſt end of y^e^ terme and J ſhall ſend yo^r^ maſt^r^chep word what Anſwer J have of hym.

Itm S^r^ if pleeſe ſuche tydyngs as I herof I ſend you word my Lord of Warwek hathe be in [4] Skotlond an take a caſtell of y^e^ Skoots and upon thys ther came y^e^ [5] Quene of Skoots w^t^ other lords of her contr' as ye ſhall her y^e^ namys in baſetry to my ſeyd Lord of Werwek and a trews is take betwyx thys and ſeynt Bertylmew day in Auguſte thes is the laſt tydyngs y^t^ I knowe No mor to yo^r^ god maſt^r^chep at y^s^ tyme but Ihu have in kepyng Wretyn on y^e^ ſaturday next aft^r^ ſeynt Pet^r^.

By yo^r^ por ſ^r^vunt

[6] J. Daubeney.

12 by 8.

* Paper Mark,
Hand and Flower.
Pl. XXVII. N° 11.

Seal:
A W. ſurmounted by a Coronet.
Pl. XIV. N° 9.

[4] This relates to the tranſactions in the North during the year 1463, when the Earl of Warwick commanded there after Edward's return to London, who was now attentive to the deſigns of France reſpecting Henry and Margaret.

LET-

home, for I trow it ſhall be this day ſev'night ere he cometh home.

Item Sir, if pleaſe you, Skroope hath ſent to you to London by Bingham for the money that ye know of; yet I ſpake not with him, but I ſhall tell him that I ſuppoſe ye will be here in the laſt end of the term, and I ſhall ſend your maſterſhip word what anſwer I have of him.

Item, Sir if pleaſe, ſuch tidings as I hear of, I ſend you word, my Lord of Warwick hath been in [4] Scotland and taken a caſtle of the Scots, and upon this there came the [5] Queen of Scots with other Lords of her Country, as ye ſhall hear the names, in baſetry (*in embaſſy*) to my ſaid Lord of Warwick, and a truce is taken betwixt this and Saint Bartholomew's day in Auguſt, theſe is (*are*) the laſt tidings that I know. No more to your good maſterſhip at this time, but Jeſu have *(you)* in his keeping. Written on the Saturday next after Saint Peter.

By your poor ſervant

[6] J. DAUBENEY.

Saint Peter,
Saturday, 2d of July, 1463.
3 E. IV.

[5] Mary, daughter of Arnold, Duke of Gelders, and Mother to James III. King of Scotland. She was a woman of heroic valour, and took an active part in the government with the Regents during the minority of her Son. She died during this year.

[6] Autograph. Pl. xxv. N° 18.

LET-

LETTER XLI.

To my Maiſtre Iohn
Paſton the yonger be this
delyv'ed.

SERE I haue receyved yo^{r} lettre wherin I undreſtand that my Maiſtre deſired that my Maiſtre yo^{r} brother myght haue the gidyng and governaunce of the Barge of Yermouthe as to that and men of Yermouthe had knowen my maiſtre entend a Fornyght a goo he had ben ſwer of it but nough it is ſo that Debenh'm hathe a Comyſcon of the Kyng expreſſed oonly for that ſchip named in hes comyſcon and he hathe ben here at Yermouthe and ſpoken w^{t} the Balyffs and w^{t} the own's of the ſeide ſchip and takyn ſuche a direccon that they may g'unted it ne man but hym And moreou' he hathe endented w^{t} the own's of the ſchip what daye it ſchulbe redy as well vetaylled as manned and alſo he hathe brought downe letters from my lord treſorer to all p'$\bar{o}$s s and gentlem$\bar{e}$ in this Contre to helpe h$\bar{y}$ and aſſiſte h$\bar{y}$ to vetayle and manne the ſeide ſchip and hes men is here dayle and gothe abought and gathereth whete malt money and what ſo eu^{r} any man woll geve &c. The bliſſed t'nyte p'ſerue you Wret$\bar{e}$ at Caſtre the Friday next aftre I receyued yo^{r} lettre It' is talked here that my maiſtre yo^{r} brother and Debenh'm were at words at london and that Debenh'm ſhuld haue ſtreken

We have in this Letter a further account of the proceedings relative to the commanding, manning, and victualling of the Barge of Yarmouth, and the means made uſe of to procure the different ſtores to fit her for her voyage, &c.

hym

LETTER XLI.

To my Maſter John Paſton, the younger, be this delivered.

SIR, I have received your Letter, wherein I underſtand that my maſter deſired that my maſter your brother might have the guiding and governance of the Barge of Yarmouth; as to that and *(if)* men of Yarmouth had known my maſter's intent a fortnight ago he had been ſure of it, but now it is ſo that Debenham hath a Commiſſion of the King expreſſed only for that ſhip named in his Commiſſion, and he hath been here at Yarmouth, and ſpoken with the Bailiff and with the owners of the ſaid ſhip, and taken ſuch a direction that they may grant it no man but him; and moreover he hath indented with the owners of the ſhip what day it ſhall be ready as well victualled as manned; and alſo he hath brought down Letters from my Lord Treaſurer to all Priors and Gentlemen in this Country to help him and aſſiſt him to victual and man the ſaid ſhip, and his men is here daily, and goeth about and gathereth wheat, malt, money, and whatſoever any man will give, &c.

The bleſſed Trinity preſerve you. Written at Caiſter, the Friday next after I received your Letter.

Item, it is talked here that my maſter your brother and Debenham were at words at London, and that Debenham ſhould

Autograph. Pl. XVIII. N° 9. Seal, an Eagle's Head eraſed, &c. Pl. XXIII. N° 8.

hym had nought Howard a beene &c. Wherof I am ryght ſory &c. neu^rtheleſſe I truſte to god all ſchul be weell.

Yo^r ſ'vu'nt

Ric Calle.

Paper Mark,
A Vine Branch.
Pl. x. N° 11.

LETTER XLIJ.

To ye ryght worcheppful
Sere Iohn Paſton Knyght be
yis delyu'ed.

RYGHT worchepful Ser and tendyrly belouyd in our lorde god I comend me to you Sendyng you knowyng that I dede your erand to my Broy^r the perſoon of Blofeeld on Wednyſdaye was ſeuenyght after y^e undyrſtandyng y^t I had of you and from you be yis brynger whech man I felte ryght wele and fauorabelye dyſpoſyd to you ward and more fauorable wole be yan to ony oy^r Jentylman levand. the wylle of y^e dede p^rformyd and his Conſcyens ſauyd. And more yinges ſeyd fauorabely for yow which J entytelyd in a ſcrowe to a certyfyed to your ſeruaunt Calle yf he had Come as ye ſent me woord he ſculd ado And xuld as ye beheſtyd me abrowte me our ferme for [1] Heyleſdon which not don Cauſeth me to wryte Prayng your

Jan-

have ſtricken him had not Howard a been. *(have been)* &c. whereof I am right ſorry, &c. nevertheleſs I truſt to God all ſhall be well.

Your Servant

RICHARD CALLE.

Caiſter, Friday, July 1463.
3 E. IV.
See Letter CVIII. Vol. III.

LETTER XLII.

To the right worſhipful Sir John Paſton, knight, be this delivered.

RIGHT worſhipful Sir, and tenderly beloved in our Lord God, I commend me to you, ſending you knowing *(knowledge)* that I did your errand to my brother the parſon of Blofield on Wedneſday was ſevnight after the underſtanding that I had of you and from you by this bringer, which man I felt right well and favourably diſpoſed to you ward, and more favourably will be than to any other gentleman living, the will of the dead performed, and his conſcience ſaved, and more things ſaid favourably for you, which I entitled in a ſcroll to have certified to your ſervant Calle, if he had come, as ye ſent me word he ſhould have done, and ſhould as ye beheſted *(promiſed)* me, have brought me our ferm for Helleſdon, which not done, cauſeth me to write, praying your gentleneſs that I ſend no more

Iantylneſſe yat I ſend no more y'fore For it is unpayed for ye zeer afore the halwemeſſe yat my Mayſter Faſtolf deyed And for the ſame zer yat he deyed in And ſythen for ij zer and v^{s} unpayed of a zer And Come Myhelmeſſe nexte xal be anoyer zer unpayed yus is iiij zer unpayed and v^{s} And at Myhelmeſſe next xal be v zer and v^{s} This yus kepte from holy chirche yat is holy Chirchez good may not be w^{t}oute grete p^{r}elle of ſoule Wher y^{e} parelle is god know^{t} J pray god amend it And geve hem grace y^{t} haue his goods ſo to dyſpoſe them yat yei and y^{e} dede both may be oute of p^{r}elle And the Trynyte haue you in his mercyful kepyng Wretyn at langle on Soneday at Euyn late next after Seynt Iohne daye Decollacon.

Be pour welewpllaud
Abbot of langelepe.

12 by 5 ¾.

We ſee in this Letter the hold which the Clergy had on the Laity for any omiſſions in payment of what was due to the Church; the danger of Sir John Paſton's ſoul is gently touched upon, and the fears for the peace of that of Sir John Faſtolf is ingeniouſly introduced. From the account in this Letter the arrears were of ſo conſiderable ſtanding that Sir John Paſton's memory ſeemed to want a little refreſhing, and the *Bringer* of this Letter appears to have received his inſtructions accordingly.

therefore, for it is unpaid for the year afore the Hallowmaſs that my maſter Faſtolf died, and for the ſame year that he died in, and ſince for two years, and five ſhillings unpaid of a year, and come Michaelmas next ſhall be another year unpaid, thus is four years unpaid and five ſhillings, and at Michaelmas next ſhall be five years and five ſhillings.

This thus kept from Holy Church, that is Holy Church's good may not be without great peril of ſoul; where the peril is God knoweth, I pray God amend it, and give them grace that have his goods ſo to diſpoſe them, that they and the dead both may be out of peril, and the Trinity have you in his merciful keeping. Written at Langley, on Sunday at even late, next after Saint John's day (*the*) Decollation, (*29th of Auguſt*).

By you well-willing,
ABBOT of LANGLEY.

Langley,
Sunday, 4th of September,
1463. 3 E. IV.

The Abbey of Langley was founded in the time of Richard I. about the year 1198. Nicholas occurs Abbot in 1428 and 1463, and Nicholas Wamerton in 1467 and 1474; it was moſt probably the firſt Nicholas, who was the writer of this Letter, as Wamerton can ſcarcely be ſuppoſed to have been the Abbot ſo early as 1428, unleſs he lived to a very old age.

Autograph. Pl. XXIV. N° 3.

LET-

LETTER XLIII.

To my right Worchepful hoſbond
Iohn Paſton be y^s lett^r
deliv'yd in haſt.

RIGHT Worchepfull hoſbond I Recōmand me to you pleaſe you to wete y^t I Rec' a lett^r frome you on y^e Sonday next Aft^r twelfthe day weche was ſent be a preſt of ſeynt Gregorys paryche of Norwic and wher as y^e mervaylyd I ſent you no wrytȳggs of ſuche letters As y^e ſent me be for I ſent you A Anſwer of y^e ſubſtauns of ſuche maters as y^e have wretyn of to me be for (be Playter) y^e weche he told me a ſent hem to you to london And as towchyng y^e erands y^t y^e ſent to me for to do to Ric' Calle J have do as y^e cōmand me to do and callyd upon hym therfor bothe be for yo^r writyng and ſithyn he thar have non excuſe for defavte of leyſer for he hathe be but ryght litill her ſyn y^e dep^rtyd hens he is owght at this tyme and whan y^t he comythe home J ſhall make hym make yow A Cler bylle of y^e receyt of yo^r lyvelod and Faſtolf bothe And J ſhale ſend yow a Cler bylle of my receyts And alſo of my paymēts owght thereof Ageyn And as for ſuche erands y^t ſhuld be do to S^r Thom's Howys I have ſhewyd Ric' Calle yo^r Writyng and told hym yo^r entent as forſuche thyngs as y^e wold he ſhuld ſey to hym on hys none heed Alſo I have do yo^r erands to my mod^r and to my Coſyn Cler Aft^r yo^r Writyng It'm I have ſpoke to Iohn Adam and to Playter of yo^r entent of y^e laſt bylle y^t y^e ſent me and

LETTER XLIII.

To my right worſhipful Huſband John Paſton, be this Letter delivered in haſte.

RIGHT worſhipful huſband, I recommend me to you, pleaſe you to weet that I received a Letter from you on the Sunday next after Twelfth day, which was ſent by a Prieſt of St. Gregory's pariſh of Norwich; and whereas ye marvelled I ſent you no writings of ſuch Letters as ye ſent me before, I ſent you an anſwer of the ſubſtance of ſuch matters as ye have written of to me before (*by Playters*) the which he told me a ſent them (*went*) to you to London. And as touching the errands that ye ſent to me for to do to Richard Calle, I have done as ye commanded me to do, and called upon him therefore, both before your writing, and ſithen (*ſince*); he therefore have none excuſe for fault of leiſure, for he hath been but right little here ſince ye departed hence; he is out at this time, and when that he cometh home I ſhall make him make you a clear bill of the receipt of your livelihood, and Faſtolf's both; and I ſhall ſend you a clear bill of my receipts, and alſo of my payments out thereof again; and as for ſuch errands that ſhould be done to Sir Thomas Howes, I have ſhewed Richard Calle your writing, and told him your intent, as for ſuch things as ye would he ſhould ſay to him on his own head. Alſo I have done your errands to my mother and to my Couſin Clere after your writing. Item, I have ſpoken to John Adam and to Playters of your intent of the laſt bill that ye ſent me, and they ſay they will do

after

they ſey they wolle do Aft^{r} yo^{r} entent as moche as they may And y^{e} ſhall have a anſwer therof in haſt It' S^{r} Rob' Coniors dinid w^{t} me this day and ſhuyd me a lett^{r} y^{t} came frome y^{e} kyng to hym deſyryng hym y^{t} he ſhuld a wayt upon hys welle be lovyd brod^{r} y^{e} Duk' of Suff' at Norwic' on Monday next comyng for to be at y^{e} Alection of knyghts of y^{e} Chyer And he told me y^{t} ev^{r}y Ientylmā of Norff' and Suff' y^{t} arne of any repetacion hathe writyng frome y^{e} kyng in lyke wyſe as he had I felle hym be his ſeyyng y^{t} he ys right welle diſpoſyd to you ward he ſeythe ther ſhall no man make hym to be a geyns you in no mat^{r}. Skypw^{t} ſhall telle you ſuche tydyngs as bethe in y^{s} Contr', and of [1] Thom's Gorney and of hys man hym ſelf is Clerk cōvicte and hys man is hangyn y^{e} ſhalle her her aft^{r} what they and od^{r} wer purpoſyd to a do to her maſt^{r} I thank you hertely of yo^{r} writyng to me be for y^{t} Iohn Paſton came home for God knowith I thowght right longe tyle I hard frome you J ſhalle ſend word in writyng of ſuche tydings as we have her on Monday in haſt Daubeney deſeyryht to wet what tyme y^{t} it pleaſe you y^{t} he ſhuld come ageyn to you my mod^{r} and many other folkys makyth moche of yo^{r} ſon Iohn y^{e} Eld^{r} and right glad of hys comyng

It appears from this Letter, which contains many curious particulars, that the King intereſted himſelf in the Election for the County of Norfolk, in behalf of thoſe Candidates who were recommended by his Brother the Duke of Suffolk. This Parliament was ſummoned to meet in January 1463-4, and it appears that Paſton, Berney, and Heydon were the Candidates, though Paſton did not intend to be preſent, as his wife was to give him the earlieſt intelligence of what paſſed.

[1] There was at this time a Thomas Gurney, Eſq. of Norwich, who had married Margaret, Daughter of Sir Thomas Jernegan, of Somerleton, and who died in 1471, but it does not appear to have been him that is here mentioned.

The following extract from one of theſe old Letters from Thomas Playters to John Paſton, Eſq. explains the crime committed by this Perſon and his Servant, (Jan. 1463-4. 3 E. IV).

" Pleaſe

after your intent as much as they may, and ye ſhall have an anſwer thereof in haſte.

Item, Sir Robert Coniers dined with me this day, and ſhewed me a Letter that came from the King to him, deſiring him that he ſhould await upon his wellbeloved brother the Duke of Suffolk, at Norwich on Monday next coming, for to be at the Election of Knights of the Shire; and he told me that every gentleman of Norfolk and Suffolk that are of any reputation hath writing from the King in likewiſe as he had. I feel him by his ſaying, that he is right well diſpoſed to you ward; he ſaith there ſhall no man make him to be againſt you in no manner. Skipwith ſhall tell you ſuch tidings as beeth in this Country, and of [1] Thomas Gorney and of his man; himſelf is Clerk convict, and his man is hanged; ye ſhall hear hereafter what they and others were purpoſed to have done to their maſter.

I thank you heartily of your writing to me before that John Paſton came home, for God knoweth I thought right long till I heard from you; I ſhall ſend word in writing of ſuch tidings as we have here on Monday in haſte. Dawbeney deſireth to weet what time that it pleaſe you, that he ſhould come again to you.

My mother and many other folks maketh much of your ſon John, the elder, and (*are*) right glad of his coming home, and

[1] "Pleaſe yor maiſtrſhip wete, that, as for my Lord of Norwich Coſyns deth, Thomas "Gurnays man hath confeſſed that he ſlewe hym by comãundmẽt of his maiſtr, and con-"feſſed ovr, that ye ſame dager he ſlewe hym wyth he keſt (*caſt*) it in a ſege, whiche is "founden and taken up al to bowyd (*bent together,*) for he cowde not breke it, and in "prſon is bothe he and his maiſtr."

The ſame Letter then goes on, and ſays,

"Alſo on Thurſday next aftr. Criſtemaſſe was a man ſlayn by whom no man woot, nor "what he is that was ſlayn, no man knowe, his face is ſo mangled."

comyng hom and lekyth reght welle hys demenyng [2] Heydon ſon hathe bor owght y^e ſyyd ſtowtly her y^s Criſtemes and whan y^t he rydyth he hathe iiij or v men w^t hym in a Clothyng but he hathe but lytyl fafor in y^s Contr' but yf it be of y^e [3] biſchop and of y^e [4] prior of Norwic y^e ſeyd p'or hathe graũtyd hym y^e ſtewerdchep y^t hys fed^r had . . . . . he hathe it und^r y^e Covent ſeale and [5] Spylman his tutor to lerne hym howe he ſhuld be demenyd . . . . . it is ſeyd abowght bakynſtorp y^t Herry Heydon ſhuld a ſeyd y^t it wer welle do y^t men of y^e . . . . . ſhuld make redy her [6] bald batts and her [7] Clot Shon and go feche hom her knygts of Chyer . . . . . Barney And it is p'myſyd hym y^t he ſhall be met w^t be cauſe of hys langage . . . . . us a good world and a peſybyll I ſhall p'vey for all thyngs y^t ye have ſent to me for ſo y^t I ween ye ſhal be pleaſyd The blyſſyd trinite have you in hys kepyng Wretyn in haſt y^e Wednyſday next . . . . . Seynt Agnet.

Yo^r

[8] M. P.

11 ½ by 11 ¾.

Paper Mark,
A Bull.
Pl. ix. N° 10.

[2] This muſt be Henry, Son of John Heydon, Eſq. Recorder of Norwich.
[3] Walter Lyhert, Biſhop from 1445 to 1472.
[4] John Molet or Mowth, Prior, from 1453 to 1471.
[5] Henry Spilman, afterwards Recorder of Norwich; he was the founder of the Spilmans of Narborough, by marrying Ela, Daughter and heir of William de Narborough.

liketh right well his demeaning. [2] Heydon's ſon hath born out the ſide ſtoutly here this Chriſtmas, and when that he rideth, he hath four or five men with him in Clothing; but he hath but litle favour in this country, but if (*unleſs*) it be of the [3] Biſhop and of the [4] Prior of Norwich, the ſaid Prior hath granted him the ſtewardſhip that his father had, he hath it under the Convent Seal, and [5] Spilman (*is*) his tutor to learn him how he ſhould be demeaned *therein*. It is ſaid about Baconſthorp that Harry Heydon ſhould have ſaid that it were well done that men of the *Country* ſhould make ready their [6] bald batts and their [7] clouted ſhoen (*Shoes*) and go fetch home their Knights of Shire . . . . . Barney; and it is promiſed him that he ſhall be met withal becauſe of his language. *Pray God ſend* us a good world and a peaceable. I ſhall purvey for all things that ye have ſent to me for, ſo that *I ween ye ſhall* be pleaſed. The bleſſed Trinity have you in his keeping. Written in haſte, the Wedneſday next *before* Saint Agnes.

Your

[8] MARGARET PASTON.

Norwich, Wedneſday
18th January, 1463-4.
3 E. IV.

[6] *Bald batts* ſeem to mean here bald Batts, or Batts to play at Ball with.

[7] *Clot ſhoen*, clouted Shoes—Shoes ſhod with thin plates of iron.

[8] Autograph. Pl. II. N° 25. N. B. A part of the Original Letter is torn off, which makes it defective in two or three ſentences.

LETTER XLIII.

To my right Worſhipfull
mayſter John Paſton at
Caſtre in Norfolk.

AFTER due recomendacon hadde pleaſe it yo^{r} maiſt^{r}ſhip to wytte that yis day the plee by twene Ogan and yow was ſore argued in y^{e} Kynggs benche by yo^{r} counſell in lettyng of ye jugem^{t} And to morwe have they day to argue ageyn And for lak of copies of y^{e} plee I am fayn to ſewe for newe copies y'of for yo^{r} counſell. yo^{r} counſell hopeth to do weel y'in theſe argued for yow maiſters [1] Grenefeld Cateſby Pygot Notyngh'm and Starky &c. And yeſterday was the matier by twene Debenh'm and yow called by [2] Geney for an anſwer I have ſpoken onto Cateſby and delyv^{r}ed hym yo^{r} enfromacon and to be aduyſed and to co'e w^{t} maiſt^{r} Grenefeld and the two [3] chefe Juges and maiſt^{r} [4] lyttleton arn awaytyng up on the kyng For the Kyng is p^{r}poſed in to Glouceſtreſhire &c. it is ſeid that my lord [5] Chaunceller ſhull be here on Saterday or on Moneday next comyng As y^{e} maiſteres of the Chaunc'ye ſayn I write to yow this by cauſe ye ſeid to me if ye wyſt y^{t} my lord Chaunceller

The King at this time was uſing every means to make himſelf popular, and for that purpoſe intended viſiting different parts of the Kingdom.

[1] I have given this Letter as containing ſeveral law matters, and the names of many eminent Lawyers.

John Greenfield, John Cateſby, and Richard Pygot were made Serjeants in November 1464. Cateſby afterwards became a Judge in 1482.

In 1480 William Nottingham was Chief Baron of the Exchequer, and in 1484 was ſucceeded by Sir Humphrey Starkey.

ſhuld

LETTER XLIV.

To my right worſhipful Maſter John Paſton, at Caiſter, in Norfolk.

AFTER due recommendation had, pleaſe it your maſterſhip to weet that this day the Plea between Ogan and you was ſore (*much*) argued in the King's Bench by your Counſel, in letting of the judgment, and to-morrow have they day to argue again. And for lack of Copies of the Plea, I am fain to ſue for new copies thereof for your Counſel; your Counſel hopeth to do well therein; theſe argued for you, [1] Greenfield, Cateſby, Pygot, Nottingham and Starky, &c. and yeſterday was the matter between Debenham and you called by [2] Jenney for an anſwer. I have ſpoken unto Cateſby, and delivered him your information, and to be adviſed, and to commune with maſter Greenfield, &c.

The two [3] Chief Judges and maſter [4] Lyttelton are awaiting upon the King, for the King is purpoſed into Glouceſterſhire, &c.

It is ſaid that my Lord [5] Chancellor ſhall be here on Saturday or on Monday next coming, as the Maſters of the Chancery ſay. I write to you this becauſe ye ſaid to me, if ye wiſt that

[2] William Jenney was made a Serjeant in 1464, and a Juſtice of the King's Bench in 1478.

[3] John Markham, Chief Juſtice of the King's Bench in 1462.
Robert Danby, Chief Juſtice of the Common Pleas in 1462.

[4] Thomas Lyttelton, the famous Lawyer, was created a Serjeant in 1453, and appointed a Judge of the Common Pleas in 1467: he died in 1481, aged 79.

[5] George Neville, now Biſhop of Exeter, but ſoon after the writing of this Letter tranſlated to York.

my

ſhuld be here yanne wolde ye come hidder and ell wolde ye not come here yis t'me As touchyng Ryſyng he hath his day ut. pur. but I have yat weye y[t] his p'ſence is recondet for al this t'me Maiſt[r] [6] Clement tellyth me y[t] Wyſſeter hath put excepcon on to yo[r] wytteneſſeres &c. It is ſeid y[t] the Kyng wold ride Suſſex Kent Eſſex Suff' and Norff' and ſo to the p'lem[t]. For he hath ſent for alle his feed men to awayte up on hym in yeir beſt aray in al haſt Wretyn at london the Thurſday in y[e] morwe aft[r]. ſeynt poule.

Yo[r] owen pou[r]e man

Jams
Greſh'm.

12 by 5 ½.
Paper Mark,
Wheels, &c.
Pl. x. N° 7.

Paper Mark,
Wheels, &c.
Pl. xxii. N° 10.

[6] Clement Paſton, brother to John Paſton.
[7] This relates to the diſputes concerning Sir John Faſtolf's Will.

LETTER XLII.

To my right Worſhipfull
Maſter Iohn Paſton the
elde' ſqu'ie.

PLEASE yo[r] maſterſhip to wete that the [1] Aſſiſe holde this day at Thetford And as for any newe aſſiſe that ye ſpak of ther is non ner non other ſavyng on for a man a bought

This Letter was written at a time when Edward, having confiſcated many of the Eſtates of the Lancaſtrians, and granted them to thoſe of his own party, was by mildneſs and affability endeavouring to become popular.

my Lord Chancellor ſhould be here, then would ye come hither, and elſe would ye not come here this term.

As touching Ryſing he hath his day, Utas Purificationis *(9th February,)* but I have that way that his preſence is recondite for all this term.

Maſter [6] Clement telleth me that Worceſter hath put exception unto your Witneſſes, &c.

It is ſaid that the King would ride (*into*) Suſſex, Kent, Eſſex, Suffolk, and Norfolk, and ſo to the Parliament, for he hath ſent for all his Feedmen to await upon him in their beſt array in all haſte.

Written at London, the Thurſday in the morrow after Saint Paul.

Your own poor man

[8] JAMES GRESHAM.

London,
Thurſday, 26th of January,
1463-4. 3 E. IV.

[8] Autograph. Pl. III. N° 28. The impreſſion on the Seal is a Graſshopper. Pl. XIV. N° 2.

LETTER XLV.

To my right worſhipful Maſter, John Paſton, the elder, Eſq.

PLEASE your maſterſhip to weet that the [1] Aſſize hold this day at Thetford; and as for any new Aſſize, that ye ſpoke of, there is none, nor none there ſaving one for a man about Brunham.

[1] William Calthorpe was Sheriff of Norfolk and Suffolk.

I ſpake

Brunham I ſpak w^e^ Herward and I aſkyd hym if ther was any gret day at Bury and he ſeid thei was but a ſmall day and as for any aſſiſes ther wer non but old And he told me that Debenh'm and the underſhireff were falle ought Debenh'm bare the Shireff on hand that he had do indited an hundred men ſon he cam in to his office and the Shireff told hym that the kyngs bokkes apperid whedir it was ſo or nought And he told Debenh'm that he coud indite an hundred at on tyme whan ye wer indited and named yow the Cauſe of ther brekyng ther was a man kyllid now late in Suff. And he that ded it was on of Debenh'm's men and Herward told me that the Shireff ſeid to hym he wold do Debenh'm a ſhrewd turne and he coud. It'm it was told me at Norwich that Maſter Berney ſhuld haue be here w^t^ a gret felaſhip and it is not ſo ner no man heryth of hys Comyng ner her is but litell pepill nowther ther wer not ſo fewe this iij yer as men ſay. It'm Herward aſkyd me where John Gayn was and J aſkyd why and he ſeid ther is a capias ought ayens hym upon the [2] condēpnacē and the ſhireff hath it he bad me geue hym warnyng it is retarnabill xv [3] paſch'.

It'm thei ſey here that the Kyng was on Monday at Walth'm.

It'm Nicholas Colman hath brought home yo^r^ fardell it is at Norwich.

It'm ther be no more Iuges here but S^r^ Pers [4] Ardeyn Wretyn at Thetford the Wedneſday the laſt day of Februar.

[2] Query, as to this word, it being not perfect in the Original?
[3] Quinzieme Paſche, the fifteenth day after Eaſter.

It'm

I ſpake with Herward, and I aſked him if there was any great day at Bury, and he ſaid there was but a ſmall day, and as for any aſſizes there were none but old; and he told me that Debenham and the Under Sheriff were fallen out; Debenham bare the Sheriff an hand that he had do (*cauſed to be*) endicted an hundred men ſince he came into his office, and the Sheriff told him that the King's books appeared whether it was ſo or not, and he told Debenham that he could endict an hundred at one time when ye were endicted, and named you the cauſe of their breaking.

There was a man killed now late in Suffolk, and he that did it was one of Debenham's men, and Herward told me that the Sheriff ſaid to him he would do Debenham a ſhrewd turn and *(if)* he could.

Item, it was told me at Norwich that Maſter Berney ſhould have been here with a great fellowſhip, and it is not ſo, nor no man heareth of his coming, nor here is but little people neither, there were not ſo few this three years, as men ſay.

Item, Herward aſked me where John Gayne was, and I aſked why, and he ſaid there is a Capias out againſt him upon the [2] condemnation, and the Sheriff hath it, he bade me give him warning; it is returnable xv [3] paſche.

Item, they ſay here that the King was on Monday at Waltham.

Item, Nicholas Colman hath brought home your fardel, it is at Norwich.

Item, there be no more Judges here but Sir Pers [4] Ardern.

Written at Thetford, the Wedneſday the laſt day of February.

[4] Sir Peter Ardern, Knight, was Chief Baron of the Exchequer, &c.

It'm [5] Wymondh'm is her and was at the Shirehows this day and the kyngs livery abaught his [6] nekke and ther ſtood be the Juge whill a lettir of the Kyngs was red the effect was as it was told me that the Kyng will that Juſtice be had and that all riſers ayens the pees and oppreſſers of the pepill be chaſteiſed letyng hem that he was late in Cambrigge Shire and there ſuch as had offendid aſkyd g'ce whech thei had ſauyng ſuch as wer rewlers whom he woll ſomwhat bee punyſshid p'poſyng to be in this Contry abought Eſtern, &c.

Yo[r] ſervūt, &c.

[7] John Pamppnge.

11 ½ by 8 ¼.

[5] John Wymondham, Eſq. the purchaſer of Felbrigg; he died there in 1475, and was buried in the Auguſtine Friars at Norwich. From him the preſent William Wyndham, Eſq. of Felbrigg, is lineally deſcended.

[6] This was either ſome coloured ribbon, or, moſt probably, a Collar with the King's device.

Collars were at this time generally worn by perſons of conſequence, and by the faſhion and form of them the rank of the wearer was intended to be aſcertained; they were uſually formed of SS, having on the centre before, a roſe or ſome other device, and were made either of gold or ſilver, according to the rank, dignity, or fortune of the wearer.

Item, [5] Wymondham is here, and was at the Shire-houſe this day, and the King's Livery about his [6] neck, and there ſtood by the Judge, while a Letter of the King's was read, the effect was, as it was told me, that the King will that Juſtice be had, and that all riſers againſt the peace, and oppreſſors of the people be chaſtiſed, letting them weet that he was late in Cambridgeſhire, and that there ſuch as had offended aſked grace, which they had, ſaving ſuch as were rulers, whom he will ſomewhat ſee puniſhed, propoſing to be in this Country about Eaſter.

Your Servant

[7] JOHN PAMPYNGE.

Thetford, Wedneſday,
the laſt day of February,
1463-4. 3 E. IV.

By an Act "For Reformation of Exceſs of Apparel," paſſed in the 24 H. VIII. 1532. ch. 13. it was enacted, "that no man, unleſs he be a Knight, wear any Collar of Gold, named a Collar of SS." This Collar therefore from that time became the diſtinguiſhing badge of knighthood.

[7] Autograph. Pl. xxv. N° 12.

LETTER XLIV.

To my ryght Wyrſhypfull Mayſtr John Paſton the oldeſt be yis delyuy'd in haſte.

J recòmaund me &c.

YF it pleaſyd you J wold ryght fayn that John Jenney werre putte oute of the Comyſſyon of the peas and that my brother wyll lumnr wer ſet yn in hys ſtede for me thynkyth it wer ryght neceſſere that ther were ſuch a wan in that County that oght you gode wyll and I knowe verely he owyth you ryght gode wyll he was wt me at Caſter but late yf ther be made any labor for Doctor Alyn to be Juſtice of the peas I p'y you for gods ſake let it be lettyd yf ye may for he wyll take to moch upon hym yf he werr J wold not that he wer remembyrd of your parte but yf he be ſpokyn of of other parts he ys ryght grete wt M Phylyp lypzate and the Baylyf of Coſhay yf it pleaſe yow to wyte that Wyks dyde a reſte on Wyll Dylmyn of Norwych as Pampyng Can enforme you of for ſertyn harnys wych he delyu'yd hym at New Caſtell for to Cary to Yarmoth by water and ther to delyur it to hym ayen whych harnys he kypt ſtyll and may not be delyu'yd and now ther ys Com down an habeas Corpus for hym and moſt appyr at the Comyn place on Fryday next Comyng Wherfor yf it pleaſed you that ther myght be taken an accyon

Though this Letter contains nothing very intereſting, yet as it mentions the Commiſſion of the Peace, and gives ſome account of a law proceſs, I have thought proper to preſent it to the reader.

in

LETTER XLVI.

To my right worſhipful Maſter, John Paſton, the oldeſt, be this delivered in haſte.

I recommend me, &c.

IF it pleaſe you, I would right fain that John Jenney were put out of the Commiſſion of the Peace, and that my brother William Lumnor were ſet in his ſtead, for me thinketh it were right neceſſary that there were ſuch a man in that county that oweth you good will, and I know verily he oweth you right good will, he was with me at Caiſter but late; if there be made any labour for Doctor Allen to be Juſtice of the Peace, I pray you for God's ſake let it be letted if ye may, for he will take too much upon him, if he were, I would not that he were remembered of your part, but if (*unleſs*) he be ſpoken of of other parts; he is right great with Maſter Philip Lypzate and the Bailiff of Coſſey.

If it pleaſe you to weet that Wykes did arreſt one William Dylmyn of Norwich, as Pampyng can inform you of, for certain Harneſs which he delivered him at Newcaſtle for to carry to Yarmouth by water, and there to deliver it to him again, which harneſs he kept ſtill, and may not be delivered, and now there is come down an Habeas Corpus for him, and *(he)* muſt appear at the Common Place on Friday next coming; wherefore if it pleaſed you that there might be taken an action in Wykes's

It mentions likewiſe the offenſive and defenſive armour, &c. then in uſe; and concludes with ſome very ſerious and preſſing advice to J. Paſton to conclude his own intricate buſineſs relative to Sir John Faſtolf's property, &c.

Autograph. Pl. II. N° 25.

name

in wyks name of treſpas under ſuch forme as ther may be a Capias a wardyd a yenſt hys Comyng for after that he was areſtyd he dyde Daubeney to be Areſtyd for mayntenyng and as for the harnys Wyks delyu'yd it to hym the x day of Ianuar the ij yer of Kyng E. in pylgryme ſtrete at New Caſtell Jn'p'ms a peyr Brygandyrs a ſalet a Boreſper a Bawe xviij arwys ij payr polronds a ſtandard of Mayle a payr ſlyvys of plate to the valew of v marc and at the reuerens of god ſlowth not your maters nowe and make an yend of hem other p'uey you to make hym or to marre hem in haſte for thys ys to orybyll a Coſte and trobell that ye haue and haue had for to endur any whyle and it ys grete heuenys to your frends and welwyllers and grete Joy and Comfort to your Ennemyes my lord of Norwych ſeyd to me that he wold noth abyde the ſorow and trobell that ye haue abyden to wyn all Sr John Faſtolf ys gode and god be your ſpede in all yor maters Wryten at Hayleſdon the xiij day of May.

I thynk ryght long to hyr tydyngs tyll I have tydyngs from you.

Your

M. P.

10 ½ by 5 ¾.

Paper Mark,
A Bull.
Pl. xxii. N° 16.

Seal: a Stag couchant.
Pl. xxviii. N° 4.

Lett=

name of treſpaſs under ſuch form as there may be a Capias awarded againſt his coming, for after that he was arreſted, he did *(cauſed)* Daubeney to be arreſted for maintaining; and as for the Harneſs Wykes delivered it to him the 10th day of January, the 2d year of King Edward IV. (1462) in Pilgrim-ſtreet, at Newcaſtle; Imprimis a pair *(of)* Briganders, a Salet, a Boarſpear, a Bow, eighteen arrows, two pair *(of)* Pouldrons *(ſhoulder-pieces)*, a ſtandard of mail, a pair *(of)* Sleeves of plate, to the value of five marks (3*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*) and at the reverence of God, ſloth not your matters now, and make an end of them, either purvey you to make them or to mar them in haſte, for this is too horrible a coſt and trouble, that ye have and have had, for to endure any while, and it is great heavineſs to your friends and well willers, and great joy and comfort to your enemies.

My Lord of Norwich ſaid to me that he would not abide the ſorrow and trouble that ye have abiden, to win all Sir John Faſtolf's good. God be your ſpeed in all your matters. Written at Hayleſdon, the 13th day of May.

I think right long to hear tidings till I have tidings from you.

Your

MARGARET PASTON.

13th of May,
between 1463 and 1465.
3 and 5 E. IV.

LET-

LETTER XLVIJ.

To my welbelouyd
Son Sr John Paſton
be this deliu'yd in haſt.

I Gret yow welle and ſend yow godds bliſſyng and myn latyng yow wet that I haue rec' a lettr from you ye wyche ye deliu'yd to Maſtr Rogr at Lynne wherby I conſeyue that ye thynke ye ded not well that ye deprtyd hens wtowt my knowlage Wherfor I late yow wett I was ryght euyll payed wt yow yor fadr thowght and thynkyth yet yt I was aſentyd to yor deprtyng And that hathe cauſyd me to have gret hevineſſe J hope he wolle be yor goodfadr heraftr yf ye demene you welle and do as ye owe to do to hym And I charge you upon my blyſſyg yt in any thnyg towchyg yor fadr yt ſhuld be hys worchep p'fyte or avayle that ye do yor deur and dylygent labor to ye fortherans therin as ye wulle haue my good wille and yt ſhall cauſe yor fadr to be bettr fadr to you. It was told me ye ſent hym a lettr to london what ye entent therof was I wot not but thowge he take it but lyghtly I wold ye ſhuld not ſpar to write to hym ageyn as lowly as ye cane beſechyg hym to be yor good fadr and ſend hym ſuche tydyngs as be in the contr' thir ye bethe in and that ye war of yor expe'ce bettyr and ye haue be befor thys tyme and be yor

No one can read this Letter without feeling concern for the diſpleaſure that Sir John had occaſioned his Mother by his improper departure; ſhe tenderly blames his conduct, gives him the advice of a kind, affectionate, and ſenſible parent, and at the ſame time is anxious to hear of his welfare.

LETTER XLVII.

To my well-beloved Son, Sir John Paſton, be this delivered in haſte.

I Greet you well, and ſend you God's bleſſing and mine, letting you weet that I have received a Letter from you, the which ye delivered to Maſter Roger at Lynn, whereby I conceive that ye think ye did not well that ye departed hence without my knowledge, wherefore I let you weet I was right evil paid with you, your father thought, and thinketh yet, that I was aſſented to your departing, and that hath cauſed me to have great heavineſs; I hope he will be your good father hereafter, if ye demean you well, and do as ye ought to do to him; and I charge you upon my bleſſing that in any thing touching your father that ſhould be (*to*) his worſhip, profit, or avail, that ye do your devoir and diligent labour to the furtherance therein, as ye will have my good will, and that ſhall cauſe your father to be better father to you.

It was told me ye ſent him a Letter to London, what the intent thereof was I wot not, but though he take it but lightly, I would ye ſhould not ſpare to write to him again as lowly as ye can, beſeeching him to be your good father; and ſend him ſuch tidings as be in the country there ye be in, and that ye be ware of your expences better and (*than*) ye have been before this

Her account of Jane Walſham's regard for Wykes is natural and pleaſing, and intereſts the Reader in her behalf.

The whole Lettter is written in a clear and eaſy ſtyle, and ſhews the maternal affection of the Writer for her Son.

Autograph. Pl. II. N° 20.

owne purſe berer J trowe ye ſhall fyndyt moſt p'fytable to you I wold ye ſhuld ſend me word howghe ye doo and howghe ye have ſchevyſte for yo^{r}ſelf ſyn ye dep^{r}tyd hens be ſ'm troſty man and that yo^{r} fad^{r} have no knowlage therof. J durſte not late hym knowe of y^{e} laſte lett^{r} y^{t} ye wrot to me be cauſe he was ſo for dyſpleaſyd w^{t} me at y^{t} tyme. It' J wold ye ſhuld ſpeke w^{t} Wekis and knowe hys dyſpoſyſion to Iane Walſh'm ſhe hathe ſeyd ſyn he dep^{r}tyd hens but ſhe myght have hym ſhe wold neu^{r} maryd hyr hert ys for ſet on hym ſhe told me y^{t} he ſeyd to hyr y^{t} ther was no woman in y^{e} world he louyd ſo welle. I wold not he ſhuld jape hyr for ſhe menythe good feythe and yf he wolle not haue hyr late me wete in haſt and I ſhall p^{r}vey for hyr in othyr wyſſe. As for yo^{r} harneys and ger that ye left her it ys in Daubeneys kepyng it was neu^{r} remeuyd ſyn yo^{r} dep^{r}tyng be cauſe that he had not y^{e} keyes I trowe it ſhall apeyer but if it be take hed hate be tymys yo^{r} fad^{r} knowythe not wher it is. I ſent yo^{r} grey hors to Ruſton to y^{e} ferror and he ſeythe he ſhull neu^{r} be nowght to rood nowthyr ryght good to plowe nor to carte he ſeythe he was ſplayyd and hys ſhuld^{r} rent from y^{e} body J wot not what to do w^{t} hym yo^{r} grandam wold fayne her ſū tydyngs from yow it wer welle do y^{t} ye ſent a lett^{r} to hyr howe ye do as aſtely as ye may And god have you in hys kepyng and make yow a good man and zyf yow grace to do as well as J wold ye

ſhuld

time, and be your own purſe-bearer, I trow ye ſhall find it moſt profitable to you.

I would ye ſhould ſend me word how ye do, and how ye have ſhifted for yourſelf ſince ye departed hence, by ſome truſty man, and that your father have no knowledge thereof; I durſt not let him know of the laſt Letter that ye wrote to me, becauſe he was ſo ſore diſpleaſed with me at that time.

Item, I would ye ſhould ſpeak with Wykes, and know his diſpoſition to Jane Walſham, ſhe hath ſaid, ſince he departed hence, but (*unleſs*) ſhe might have him, ſhe would never (*be*) married, her heart is ſore ſet on him; ſhe told me that he ſaid to her, that there was no woman in the world he loved ſo well; I would not he ſhould jape (*deceive*) her, for ſhe meaneth good faith; and if he will not have her, let me weet in haſte, for I ſhall purvey for her in other wiſe.

As for your harneſs and geer that ye left here, it is in Daubeney's keeping, it was never removed ſince your departing, becauſe that he had not the keys, I trow it ſhall apeyer (*grow worſe*) but if (*unleſs*) it be taken heed at betimes; your father knoweth not where it is.

I ſent your grey horſe to Ruſton to the farrier, and he ſaith he ſhall never be nought to ride, neither right good to plough nor to cart, he ſaid he was ſplayed, and his ſhoulder rent from the body, I wot not what to do with him.

Your Grandam would fain hear ſome tidings from you; it were well done that ye ſent a Letter to her how ye do, as haſtily as ye may, and God have you in his keeping, and make you a good man, and give you grace to do well, as I would ye ſhould do.

ſhuld do Wretyn at Caſt' ye Tewiſday next befor ſeynt Edmund y^e^ Kynge.

Yo^r^. moder

M. Paſton.

J wold ye ſhuld make mech of y^e^ p^r^ſon Fylby y^e^ berer herof and make hym good cher yf ye may.

11 ½ by 9.
Paper Mark,
A Bugle Horn ſtrung.
Pl. xxvii. N° 15.

LETTER XLVIII.

To my right good Mayter
S^r^ John Paſton Knyght.

MY right eſpeciall good Mayſter J recomand me to yow. Thankyng you right hertely of your gentell letter late ſend to me. And as to Pyncheſter mater &c. J wulde I were youre nygh kynneſman yef hit pleſed god and than ſhuld I know yef hit ſhuld greve your herte aſmeche as hit dothe other of my kynne and Frendes to ſee me thus Cowardly hurte by Pyncheſter cauſeles And of myn entente in y^t^ mater Wyll'm Rabbes

ſhall

Written at Caiſter, the Tueſday next before Saint Edmund the King, (*20th of November.*)

Your Mother

MARGARET PASTON.

I would ye ſhould make much of the Parſon of Filby, the bearer hereof, and make him good cheer if ye may.

Caiſter, Tueſday, November,
between 1463 and 1466.
3 and 6 E. IV.

LETTER XLVIII.

To my right good Maſter Sir John Paſton, knight.

MY right ſpecial good maſter, I recommend me to you, thanking you right heartily of your gentle letter late ſent to me; and as to Pincheſter's matter, &c. I would I were your nigh kinſman if it pleaſed God, and then ſhould I know if it ſhould grieve your heart as much as it doth other of my kin and friends to ſee me thus cowardly hurt and maimed by Pincheſter, cauſeleſs; and of mine intent in that matter William Rabbes ſhall tell

ſhall telle you more all ſo I beſeche yow to recomand me to my lordes good grace as to hym whom of erthely eſtates next my dewte J moſte love and drede and that ſhuld he well knowe and hit lay in my power. p'ying you hertely to declare his lordſhip ſuch mater as Wyll'm Rabbes ſhall enfourme yow and to ſend me my lordes anſwere. All ſo in aſmoche as I underſtode by yow that money ſhuld cauſe you Concluſion in your mater this next terme And ye wull be at london on Monday at Nyght or Tewſday by none I truſte y^t^ J haue ſtudyed ſuch a mene y^t^ up on Surete as ye may make to gete yow an C li or CC m'rk to be lante un to yow for an halfe yere w^t^ onte any cheuyſſhaunce or loſſe of good by yow as Wyll'm Rabbes ſhall telle you more &c. And as to ouyde de arte Amandi J ſhall ſend hym you y^s^ next weke for J have hyt not now redy but me thenkeyth Ouide de remedio were more mete for yow but yef ye purpoſid to falle haſtely in my lady Anne P. lappe as white as whales bon &c. ye be the beſt cheſer of a gentell woman y^t^ I knowe &c. And I p'y you to recomaunde me to my lord of Oxford and to my goods Mayſters Nedeh'm Richemond Chyppenh'm Stavely Bloxh'm Stuard and Jngulton in ſpeciall and all other good maſt^rs^ and Frendes in generall &c. And ſ^r^ Mayſtres Gaydade recomaud me to yow and ſaid beſſyng fare for Charite and ſhe

It is very difficult to fix any date to this Letter, as not only the writer of it, but the perſons mentioned in it, are new to us.

The injury ſuſtained by T. Daverſe from Pincheſter is likewiſe inexplicable.

Who is Lady Anne P, and how are we to explain the expreſſion "as white as whale's bone?"

The mention of Ovid's works is curious, and the application humorous and witty.

ſaid

tell you more; alſo I beſeech you to recommend me to my Lord's good grace, as to him whom of earthly eſtates next my duty I moſt love and dread, and that ſhould he well know and it lay in my power, praying you heartily to declare (*to*) his Lordſhip ſuch matter as William Rabbes ſhall inform you, and to ſend me my Lord's anſwer.

Alſo in as much as I underſtand by you that money ſhould cauſe you concluſion in your matter this next term, and ye would be at London on Monday at night or Tueſday by noon, I truſt that I have ſtudied ſuch a mean, that, upon ſurety as ye may make, to get you an hundred pounds or two hundred marks (133*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*) to be lent unto you for an half year, without any cheviſance or loſs of goods by you, as William Rabbes ſhall tell you more, &c.

And as to Ovid "De Arte Amandi," I ſhall ſend him you the next week, for I have him not now ready; but me thinketh Ovid "De Remedio" were more meet for you, but if (*unleſs*) ye purpoſed to fall haſtily in my Lady Anne P's lap as white as whale's bone, &c. ye be the beſt chooſer of a gentlewoman that I know, &c. and I pray you to recommend me to my Lady of Oxford, and to my good maſters, Needham, Richmond, Chippenham, Staveley, Bloxham, Stuard, and Ingulton in ſpecial, and all other good maſters and friends in general, &c. And, Sir, Miſtreſs Gaydade recommend me (*q? her*) to you and ſaid buſſing fare

The ſubſcription to this Letter is T. D. which is explained by "T. Daverſe," being written under the direction, I believe, by the hand of the receiver. Autograph. Pl xxv. N° 22.

The family of Davers are of conſiderable ſtanding in the county of Suffolk, and advanced to the dignity of baronet in 1682.

ſaid me ſhe wuld fayne haue a new felet &c. Wreten at london y^{s} xxix day in Janyver.

W^{t} hte and ſ^{r}vyſe

Your

T. D.

Paper Mark.
A Ring.
Pl. xxii. N^{o} 17.

LETTER XLIX.

To myn ryght Worſhypful
heſbond Iohn Paſton be thys
delyveryd in haſte.

RYGHT Worſhypful hoſbond I rekomaund me on to you pleaſyth you to wete that I ſent yiſt^{r}day Loveday to Norwyche to ſpeke wyth the [1] Vykyr of Derh'm for the mater betwen maſt^{r} Conſtantyn and hym And he ſeyth y^{t} as for that mater maſt^{r} Conſtantyn ſewyd hym for feyth and trowth brekyng and he ſewyd maſt^{r} Conſtantyn in the temp'all Curte uppon an obligacion of x li. and ther was made appoyntment be twen hem by

This Letter was written in 1464, about the time that King Henry VI. was taken and committed to the Tower, an order having been iſſued in May for the Subjects of this kingdom to take arms and attend King Edward. The Commiſſion of Enquiry ſeems to relate to this order, which moſt probably was enforced for the more eaſy diſcovery of the

for charity, and ſhe ſaid (*to*) me ſhe would fain have a new fillet, &c.

Written at London the 29th day in January,

With heart and ſervice

Your

THOMAS DAVERSE.

London, 29 January,
Between 1463 and 1469.
3 and 9 E. IV.

LETTER XLIX.

To mine right worſhipful Huſband John Paſton, be this delivered in haſte.

RIGHT worſhipful Huſband, I recommend me unto you, pleaſeth you to weet that I ſent yeſterday Loveday to Norwich to ſpeak with the [1] Vicar of Dereham for the matter between Maſter Conſtantine and him, and he ſaith that as for that matter Maſter Conſtantine ſued him for faith and truth breaking, and he ſued Maſter Conſtantine in the Temporal Court upon an obligation of ten pounds; and there was made an appointment between them by the advice of both their Counſels,

the unfortunate Prince, who perhaps was by this time lodged in the Tower, as thoſe Gentlemen who had obeyed it, were now diſmiſſed and returned home.

[1] Conſtantine Dalby was inſtituted to the Vicarage of Eaſt Dereham, in 1451, and was ſucceeded in 1456 by Robert Sheringham.

by the advyce of bothe ther Conceylis be for maſtr Rob' Popy yt eche of hem ſhuld relece othyr and ſo they dede and the ſewtys wer wythdrawyn on bothe prtyes and jche of hem aquytau'ncyd othyr and as for any Copy of the plee he had nevr non Ner he ner maſtr John Eſtegate yt was hys atrnay remembryth nat yt it was regeſtryd And maſtr John Eſtegate ſeythe if it ſchuld be ſcergyd in the regeſtr it wold take a fortenyght werk and yit praventur nevr be the nerer. Syr Thom's [2] Howes hathe ben ryght beſy thys weke at Bloofeld in wrytyng and lokyng uppe of ger and John Ruſſe hathe ben wt hym ther the moſte prte of alle thys weke And thys daye was Rob' Lynne ther wt hym what they have do I wote nat but I ſchal wete if I may It was told me yt Syr Thom's deſyryd of Iohn Ruſſe to make hym a new Jnventory of Sr Iohn Faſtolffs goods Iohn Ruſſe myght not be ſpoke wt yit for the lettr yt he ſhuld a wretyn whych ye ſente me word of I'm it is tolde yt the Dwke of [3] Suffolk is kome home and owthyr he is ded or ellys ryght ſeke and not lyke to eſkape And Syr Iohn Howard is kome hom and it is ſeyd yt the lord [4] Skalys and he have a Comyſſyon to enquer whye they of thys Cont' yt wer Sent for kame not haſtylar uppe afftyr they wer ſent for It is reportyd yt the kyng is gretly dyſpleaſyd ther wt At the revrence of God arme yowr ſelve as myghtyly as ye

[2] J. Paſton and Thomas Howes had at this time diſagreed about the executorſhip of Sir John Faſtolf's Will.

kan

before Maſter Robert Popy, that each of them ſhould releaſe (*the*) other, and ſo they did, and the ſureties were withdrawn on both parties, and each of them acquittanced other; and as for any Copy of the plea he had never none, nor he nor Maſter John Eſtgate, that was his Attorney, remembereth not that it was regiſtered; and Maſter John Eſtgate ſaith, if it ſhould be ſearched in the Regiſter it would take a fortnight's work, and yet peradventure never be the nearer.

Sir Thomas [2] Howes hath been right buſy this week at Blofield, in writing and looking up of geer, and John Ruſſe hath been with him there the moſt part of all this week, and this day was Robert Lynne there with him; what they have done I wot not, but I ſhall weet if I may.

It was told me, that Sir Thomas deſired of John Ruſſe to make him a new Inventory of Sir John Faſtolf's Goods; John Ruſſe might not be ſpoken with yet, for the Letter that he ſhould have written, which ye ſent me word of.

Item, it is told that the Duke of [3] Suffolk is come home, and either he is dead, or elſe right ſick, and not like to eſcape; and Sir John Howard is come home; and it is ſaid that the Lord [4] Scales and he have a Commiſſion to enquire, why they of this country that were ſent for, came not haſtilier up after they were ſent for.

It is reported that the King is greatly diſpleaſed therewith. At the reverence of God arm yourſelf as mightily as ye can

[3] John, Duke of Suffolk, did not die till 1491.

[4] Anthony Widville was created Lord Scales in 1461.

kan ageyn yowr [5] enmyes for I know verrayly y[t] they wyl do ageyn yow as myghtyly as they kan w[t] all ther power it is told me y[t] Syr Thom's ſhal kom uppe in haſte and othyr ſuche as he kan make for hys p'tye Alſo for goddys ſake be war what medeſyns ye take of any [6] fyſiſſyans of London I ſchal nev[r] truſt to hem be cauſe of your fadr and myn Onkyl whoys ſowlys God Aſſoyle The bliſſyd trynyte have yow in hys kepyng and ſende yow helthe and good ſpede in all yowr mat'ris Wretyn in haſte on the Fryday next befor ſceynt Bernabye.

By yowrs

[7] M. P.

Alle the Jentylmen of thys contre y[t] went uppe to the Kyng ar contrmaundyd and ar com home ageyn. It is told me y[t] [8] Rowſe of Suffolk is ded. If Iohn Gayn myght have any releeſe of his ſone if it myght do hym eſe it wer a good torne for hym.

11 ½ by 8 ½.
Paper Mark,
A Bugle Horn ſtrung.
Pl. xxvii. N° 15.

[5] Theſe may either mean thoſe Enemies which the affairs of Sir John Faſtolf had cauſed him, or thoſe which the national diſputes had occaſioned.

[6] How her Father and her uncle had ſuffered from London Phyſicians does not appear.

M U M.

againſt your [5] enemies, for I know verily that they will do again you as mightily as they can with all their power.

It is told me that Sir Thomas ſhall come up in haſte, and other ſuch as he can make for his party.

Alſo for God's ſake beware what Medicines ye take of any [6] Phyſicians of London; I ſhall never truſt to them becauſe of your Father and mine Uncle, whoſe Souls God aſſoil!

The bleſſed Trinity have you in his keeping, and ſend you health and good ſpeed in all your matters. Written in haſte, on the Friday next before Saint Barnabas.

By yours

[7] MARGARET PASTON.

All the Gentlemen of this Country that went up to the King are countermanded, and are come home again. It is told me that [8] Rous of Suffolk is dead; if John Gayn might have any releaſe of his Son, if it might do him eaſe, it were a good turn for him.

Friday, 8th June,
1464. 4 E. IV.

[7] Autograph. Pl. II. N° 25. Seal. Pl. XIV. N° 4.

[8] Reginald Rous, Eſq. of Denington, in Suffolk, died in 1464, and from him the preſent Sir John Rous, Bart. of Henham, in Suffolk, is lineally deſcended.

NUM-

NUMBER L.

Apunctuament' Regis pr fundacōne Collegij apd Caiſtre, &c.

THE Kyng for the ſoume of CCC mark of lawfull mony of Inglond or of ſiluer plate to the valew therof g'untith to John Paſton the older ſquier to haue licens lawfully mad to make and found a College of vij preſts and vij pore folk at Caſter in Flegge in Norff for the ſoule of Sir Iohn Falſtolf knyght thei to be indued with certeyn Rent and otherwiſe aftir the intent and effect as is ſpecifijd in a bille therof ſigned by the kyng and that he ſhall ſhewe his good graſe favor and aſſiſtence to haue the ſeid fundacon inacted and auctoriſed in the plement next holden and Diſcharge the ſeid John Paſton and the ſeid preſts of any other fyne or fee to be mad in the Chaunc'ie for the ſeid fundacon And that the kyng ſhall ſigne and g'unt warants for ſeid licens and ſhewe his good g'ce and favor in the expediſion therof what tyme he be ſued to therfore by the ſeid Iohn Paſton.

Alſo the Kyng g'untith to be good and favorabill lord to the ſeid John Paſton and ineſpeciall in all thyngs touchyng the execucon of the will of the ſeid ſir Iohn Faſtolf and alſo to be good and favorabill lord to the ſeid Iohn Paſton in ſupportyng and helpyng

From this Appointment of the King it appears that Grants for foundations of religious eſtabliſhments were made one mean of raiſing money for the ſervice of the crown; and that the royal protection was likewiſe obtained by a preſent of money or plate.

Whether the terms, by which the King's favour was now to be procured, were fulfilled by John Paſton, or whether his Majeſty had any reaſons for withdrawing his protection, does

NUMBER L.

Appointment of the King for the Foundation of a College at Caiſter, &c.

THE King, for the ſum of 300 marks *(200l.)* of lawful money of England, or of ſilver plate to the value thereof, granteth to John Paſton the elder, Eſquire, to have licence, lawfully made, to make and found a College of ſeven Prieſts and ſeven poor folk at Caiſter, in Flegg *(hundred)* in Norfolk, for the Soul of Sir John Faſtolf, Knight; they to be endued with certain rent, and otherwiſe after the intent and effect as is ſpecified in a bill thereof, ſigned by the King; and that he ſhall ſhew his good grace, favour, and aſſiſtance to have the ſaid foundation enacted and authoriſed in the Parliament next holden, and diſcharge the ſaid John Paſton and the ſaid Prieſts of any other fine or fee to be made in the Chancery for the ſaid foundation, and that the King ſhall ſign and grant warrants for the ſaid licence, and ſhew his good grace and favour in the expedition thereof, what time he be ſued to therefore by the ſaid John Paſton.

Alſo, the King granteth to be good and favourable Lord to the ſaid John Paſton, and in eſpecial in all things touching the execution of the Will of the ſaid Sir John Faſtolf, and alſo to be good and favourable Lord to the ſaid John Paſton, in ſupporting

does not appear, but in the following year the royal favour was forfeited, and J. Paſton was a priſoner by the King's command.

For his Majeſty's ſignature, ſee Pl. IV. N° 1. and Pl. XXIV. N° 1.

During this year the King was moving from place to place, and by condeſcenſion and affability acquiring popularity.

helpyng hym in that the kyngs highneſſe may lawfulle do in ſuch maters as are in debate athwyx the ſeid John Paſton and Will'm Yelu'ton or Will'm Ienney or any other concernyng the londs and ten'ts, goods or catell, that were the ſeid ſir Iohn Faſtolfs Alſo the Kyng g'untith to help and ſupport the ſeid Iohn Paſton to opteyne and haue to the vſe of the ſeid ſir John Faſtolf ſuch goods as were the ſeid Faſtolfs Deſeitfully aloyned out of the poſſeſſion and knowlech of the ſeid Iohn Paſton and that the Kyng ſhall g'unt the ſeid Iohn Paſton ſuch lawfull writynggs and lettirs from the Kyng Directed to ſuch p'ſones as ſhall be behovefull for the ſame what tyme the ſeid John Paſton ſuyth to the Kyngs highneſſe therfore.

Alſo where Yelu'ton or Ienney or any Iuſtiſe of the peas of the ſhire of Suff. hath recorded any Riot treſpas or offenſes to be Do ayens the Kyngs peas by the ſeid John Paſton his ſ'v'nts or ten'nts or frends or where any inditement or p'ſentment is found ayens them or any of them before any of the ſeid Iuſtiſes for any ſuch Riot offenſes treſpas or for any other mater remaynyng of record in the kyngs benche or in any other plaſe the kyng g'untith to the ſeid John Paſton and all other p'ſones named in the ſeid records or inditements or in any of hem and to alle her boroughs and pleggs and to ich of them that woll ſue it a pardon of all Riotes treſpas offenſes felonys forfetures doon ayens the kyngs peas And of fynes therefore dempt or to be dempt and of all other thyngs gen'ally treaſon except and that the kyng ſhall ſigne warants lawfull of the ſeid p'dons what tyme his highneſſe be requerid by the ſeid John Paſton or his attornys.

And

and helping him, in that the King's highneſs may lawfully do, in ſuch matters as are in debate atwixt the ſaid John Paſton and William Yelverton, or William Jenney, or any other, concerning the lands and tenements, goods or chattels, that were the ſaid Sir John Faſtolf's; alſo the King granteth to help and ſupport the ſaid John Paſton to obtain and have to the uſe of the ſaid Sir John Faſtolf ſuch goods as were the ſaid Faſtolf's deceitfully aloyned (*removed*) out of the poſſeſſion and knowledge of the ſaid John Paſton, and that the King ſhall grant the ſaid John Paſton ſuch lawful writings and letters from the King, directed to ſuch perſons as ſhall be behoveful for the ſame, what time the ſaid John Paſton ſueth to the King's highneſs therefore.

Alſo where Yelverton, or Jenney, or any Juſtice of the Peace of the Shire of Suffolk hath recorded any riot, treſpaſs or offences to be done againſt the King's peace, by the ſaid John Paſton, his ſervants, or tenants, or friends; or where any indictment or preſentment is found againſt them, or any of them, before any of the ſaid Juſtices, for any ſuch riot, offences, treſpaſs, or for any other matter remaining of record in the King's Bench, or in any other place, the King granteth to the ſaid John Paſton, and all other perſons named in the ſaid records or indictments, or in any of them, and to all their boroughs (*ſureties*) and pledges, and to each of them that will ſue it, a pardon of all riots, treſpaſſes, offences, felonies, forfeitures done againſt the King's peace, and of fines therefore dempt (*adjudged*), or to be dempt, and of all other things generally, treaſon except, and that the King ſhall ſign warrants lawful of the ſaid pardons, what time his highneſs be required by the ſaid John Paſton or his Attorneys.

And alſo that his highneſſe ſhall do inquere and examīacon be mad whedir the ſeid record of the ſeid Iuſtiſes and p'ſentments and other informacons or compleynts mad ayens the ſeid Iohn Paſton were do trewly and lawfully or nought and if it be found that thei were do otherwiſe thanne trought lawe or Conſiens woll thanne the kyng g'untyth to cauſe the Doers therof to recompenſe the ſeid Iohn Paſton and the ſeid other p'ſones as far as lawe and good conſiens woll in that behalf.

And that if it fortune any compleynt to be mad ayens the ſeid John Paſton by any p'ſone in tyme Comyng to the Kyng that he ſhall take no Diſpleaſir to the ſeid John Paſton till the tyme he come to his anſwer and be found in Defaut.

And that the kyng ſhall reſeyve an C li of the ſeid CCC m'rk what tyme he ſend for it and the remnaunt as ſone as the ſeid fundacon take effect and alſo that his highneſſe ſhall gete the aſſent of the reu'ent fader in god the archebisſhop of Caunt'bury in ſuch apoyntmēts as is mad athwyx the Kyng and the ſaid John Paſton of ſuch goods as were the ſeid ſir John Faſtolfs for the Deliu'c therof and that if the ſeid Iohn Paſton refuſe the adminiſtracon of the goods and catell that were the ſeid ſir Iohn Faſtolfs ſufferyng other to take it opon'hem the Kyng at the inſtauns of the ſeid John Paſton g'untith to be good and favorabill lord to ſuch other as the coors of the lawe and aſſent of the ſeid John Paſton ſhall take the ſeid adminiſtracon in execucon of the ſeid Faſtolfs will touchyng the adminiſtracon of the goods and catell forſeid acordyng to the ſame wyll and that the Kyng ſhall not cleyme nor deſire any of the londs or ten'ts goods or catell that were

And alſo that his highneſs ſhall do (*cauſe*) enquiry and examination (*to*) be made whether the ſaid record of the ſaid Juſtices and preſentments, and other informations or complaints made againſt the ſaid John Paſton, were done truly and lawfully or not; and if it be found that they were done otherwiſe than truth, law, or conſcience will, then the King granteth to cauſe the doers thereof to recompence the ſaid John Paſton, and the ſaid other perſons, as far as law and good conſcience will in that behalf.

And that if it fortune any complaint to be made againſt the ſaid John Paſton, by any perſon in time coming, to the King, that he ſhall take no diſpleaſure to the ſaid John Paſton till the time he come to his anſwer, and be found in default.

And that the King ſhall receive an hundred pounds of the ſaid 300 marks, what time he ſend for it, and the remanent as ſoon as the ſaid foundation take effect; and alſo that his highneſs ſhall get the aſſent of the reverend father in God, the Archbiſhop of Canterbury, in ſuch appointments as is made atwixt the King and the ſaid John Paſton of ſuch goods as were the ſaid Sir John Faſtolf's, for the delivery thereof, and that if the ſaid John Paſton refuſe the adminiſtration of the goods and chattels that were the ſaid Sir John Faſtolf's, ſuffering other to take it upon them, the King, at the inſtance of the ſaid John Paſton, granteth to be good and favourable Lord to ſuch other (*as*), by the courſe of the law, and aſſent of the ſaid John Paſton, ſhall take the ſaid adminiſtration in execution of the ſaid Faſtolf's Will, touching the adminiſtration of the goods and chattels aforeſaid, according to the ſame Will, and that the King ſhall not claim nor deſire any of the lands or tenements, goods or chattels that

were the ſeid Sir John Faſtolf ayens the ſeid Iohn Paſton or any other executor adminiſtror or feffe of the ſeid Sir John Faſtolf nor ſupport or favor any other p'ſone in cleymyng any of the ſeid londs or ten'ts goods or catell ayens any the ſeid adminiſters executores or feffes.

And the Kyng g'untith that where as this bille is not ſufficiently mad in clauſes and termes accordyng to thentent therof that his highneſſe woll take and execute the very entent therof notwt-ſtandyng the inſufficiens of any ſuch termes and clauſes in thes bille Wretyn at Marleburgh the Monday next after the natiuite of oure lady the fourthe yere of the reigne of the Kyng.

11 ½ by 16 ½.

Paper Mark,
Bull's Head and Star.
Pl. x. N° 3.

LETTER LJ.

To my ryt̄ Wurchepfull
Mayſtr Ion Paſton in haſt.

RYT wurſchipfull hoſbond I r'cōmand me to zu deſyñg hertyly to her of zr Wellfar pryīg zu to wete yt I ſpoken wt 1 Strawngs Wyf of ye mattr yt ze ſpoken to me of And ſche ſeyth pleynly to me be her feyth yt ſche knew nevr non ſeche n' nevr herd of non ſcheche and told to me in lyk wyſe as ſche had ſeyd

The exact year when this Letter was written cannot be determined, but it muſt have been during J. Paſton's troubles in the latter part of his life, between 1464 and 1466.

to

were the ſaid Sir John Faſtolf's againſt the ſaid John Paſton or any other executor, adminiſtrator, or feoffee of the ſaid Sir John Faſtolf, nor ſupport or favour any other perſon in claiming any of the ſaid lands or tenements, goods or chattels, againſt any of the ſaid adminiſtrators, executors, or feoffees.

Alſo the King granteth that whereas this bill is not ſufficiently made in clauſes and terms according to the intent thereof, that his highneſs will take and execute the very intent thereof, notwithſtanding the inſufficience of any ſuch terms and clauſes in this bill. Written at Marlborough, the Monday next after the Nativity of our Lady, the fourth year of the reign of the King.

Marlborough, Wiltſhire,
Monday, 10th of September,
1464. 4 E. IV.

LETTER LI.

To my right worſhipful Maſter John Paſton, in haſte.

RIGHT worſhipful Huſband, I recommend me to you, deſiring heartily to hear of your welfare, praying you to weet, that I have ſpoken with [1] Strange's wife of the matter that ye ſpoken to me of, and ſhe ſaith plainly to me by her faith, that ſhe knew never none ſuch nor never heard of none ſuch, and *(ſhe)* told to me in like wiſe as ſhe had ſaid to James Gloys,

[1] The very ancient and reſpectable Family of Strange or L'Eſtrange, of Hunſtanton, in Norfolk, failing in the male line about twenty years ago, the ample poſſeſſions of that Houſe are now divided between the Families of Aſtley and Styleman, whoſe Mothers were Siſters to Sir Thomas and Sir Henry L'Eſtrange, Baronets.

and

to Jamys Gloys And ſche ſeyd to me if ſche kowd jnq'r of any oy^{r} y^{t} ſche yinght xuld have knowleche of any ſeche ſche xuld wetyn of hem and letyn me have knowleche y'of. And jf ze ſoppoſe y^{t} any oy^{r} be jn yis contr' y^{t} ye thync xuld have knowleche of yis forſeyd mat^{r}. yf ye wyll ſend me word ther of. I xall do my p't ther in Alſo I have ben att Sweyngſthorp and ſpoken w^{t} kokett and he ſeyth y^{t} he woll don lyche as ye bad me y^{t} I xuld ſey to hym for to don And I have ſpokyn w^{t} Sexteyn and ſeyd to hym as ye bad me that I xuld don and axid me ryt feythfully hw ye ſped jn z^{r} mat'ys I teld hym y^{t} haddyn fayr be heſts and I ſeyd I hopyd y^{t} ze xuld don rytz well y'jn And he ſeyd he ſuppoſyd y^{t} [2] D. wold don for z^{u} but he ſeyd he was no haſty laborer jn non mat^{r} he ſeyd be hys feyth he woſt qher a man was y^{t} laboryd to hym for amat^{r} ryth along tym and alwey he be heſtyd y^{t} he wold labor itt effectualy but qhyll he ſewyd to hym he kowd nev^{r} have r'medy of his mat^{r} and than qhan he yowth y^{t} he xuld no remedy have to ſew to hym he ſpak w^{t} [3] Fynys y^{t} is now Spek^{r} of y^{e} parlment and p'yid hym y^{t} he wold don for hym in his mat^{r} and zaf hym areward. And w^{t}jnne ryth ſhort tym aft^{r} his mat^{r} was ſped and y^{e} ſeyd [4] Sexteyn and oy^{r} folkys y^{t} ben yowr ryth wele willers have kownſelyd me y^{t} I xuld kownſell z^{u} to maken oy^{r} menys yan ye have made to other folks y^{t} wold ſpede y^{r} mat'ys bett^{r} yan they have don.

[2] Perhaps this may mean John Damme, a perſon often mentioned in theſe Letters, and who was Member of Parliament for the City of Norwich, in 1451.

[3] It does not appear what relation this Fynes was to Sir Richard Fynes, who married Joan, Daughter and heir of Lord Dacre of the South, by which title in her right he was ſummoned to Parliament in 1459.

The Reward given to Fynes ſeems previous to his being elected Speaker of the Parliament.

and ſhe ſaid to me if ſhe could enquire of any other that ſhe thought ſhould have knowledge of any ſuch, ſhe ſhould weten of them, and letten me have knowledge thereof; and if ye ſuppoſe that any other be in this Country that ye think ſhould have knowledge of this foreſaid matter, if ye will ſend me word thereof, I ſhall do my part therein.

Alſo I have been at Swainſthorp and ſpoken with Cocket, and he ſaith that he will do like as ye bad me that I ſhould ſay to him for to do. And I have ſpoken with the Sexteyn (*Sexton*) and ſaid to him as ye bad me that I ſhould do, and he aſked me right faithfully how ye ſped in your matters.

I told him that ye had fair beheſts, and I ſaid, I hoped that ye ſhould do right well therein; and he ſaid he ſuppoſed that [2] D would do for you; but he ſaid, he was no haſty labourer in none matter, he ſaid by his faith he wiſt where a man was that laboured to him for a matter right a long time, and always he beheſted that he would labour it effectually; but while he ſued to him he could never have remedy of his matter, and then when he thought that he ſhould no remedy have to ſue to him, he ſpake with [3] Fynes that is now Speaker of the Parliament, and prayed him that he would do for him in his matter, and gave him a reward; and within right ſhort time after his matter was ſped; and, the ſaid [4] Sexteyn and other folks that be your right well-willers have counſelled me that I ſhould counſel you to make other means than ye have made to other folks, that would ſpeed

[4] The Sacriſt or Sexton of the Priory of Norwich, was the officer who had the care of the Sacra, or Holy Things, as the Church Plate, Copes, &c. he was likewiſe Secretary, Auditor, and Chancellor of the Convent, and had a Subſacriſt or Deputy to perform the ſervile parts of his office. In 1444 Brother Richard de Walſham was appointed Sacriſt.

your

yatt ye have ſpoken to y'of be for this tym Sondery folks have ſeyd to me that they yynk veryly but if ye have my lord of [5] Suffolk's godelorchyp qhyll ye werd is as itt is ye kan nev[r] leven jn peſe w[t] owth ye have his godelordſchep therfor I p'y y[u] w[t] all myn herth y[t] ye wyll don yowr p't to have hys godelordſchep and his love jn eſe of all the mat'is that ye have to don and jn eſyng of myn hert alſo For be my trowth j am afferd ellys bothen of theſe mat'y the qhyche ye have jn hand now and of other that ben not don to yett but if he wyl don for z[u] and be y[r] godelord I pray yow hertylye ſend me werd how ze don and how ye ſpeden jn z[r] mat'ys and j p'y y[u] as for ſeche thȳgs as Iamys hath abyll of y[t] jmay have hem as haſtyly as ze may and y[t] ze wyll vowcheſave to bey apeſe of blak bukram for to lyn w[t] a gown for me I xuld bey me amurrey gown to gon in this ſom[r] and leyn in the koler the Satyn y[t] ze zeve me for an hodde and I kan gettyn non gode bokeram in y[is] town to lyn it w[t] The holy t'nyte have yow in his kepyng and ſend z[u] helth and good ſpede in all yowr mat'is Wretyn att Norwyche on ye Fryday nexſt aft[r] [6] Crowchemeſſe day.

Yowrys

[7] M. P.

11 by 11 ½.

Paper Mark,
A Globe and Croſs.
Pl. xxvi. N° 3.

[5] John de la Pole, Duke of Suffolk.

LET.

your matters better than they have done that ye have ſpoken to thereof before this time. Sundry folks have ſaid to me, that they think verily but if *(unleſs)* ye have my Lord of [5] Suffolk's good Lordſhip while the werd (*world*) is as it is, ye can never live in peace without ye have his good lordſhip; therefore I pray you with all mine heart, that ye will do your part to have his good lordſhip and his love in eaſe of all thoſe matters that ye have to do, and in eaſing of mine heart alſo, for by my truth I am afraid elſe, both of theſe matters the which ye have in hand now, and of other that be not done to yet, but if (*unleſs*) he will do for you and be your good Lord. I pray you heartily ſend me word how ye do, and how ye ſpeed in your matters; and I pray you as for ſuch things as James hath a bill of, that I may have them as haſtily as ye may; and that ye will vouchſafe to buy a piece of black buckram for to line with a gown for me, I ſhould buy me a murrey gown to go in this Summer, and lay in the collar the ſatin that ye gave me for an hood; and I can get none good buckram in this town to line it with. The Holy Trinity have you in his keeping, and ſend you health and good ſpeed in all your matters.

Written at Norwich, on the Friday next after [6] Crouchmas day.

Yours

[7] MARGARET PASTON.

Norwich, Friday,
May, between 1464 and 1466.
4 and 6 E. IV.

[6] Crouchmaſs day, or the Invention of the Croſs, was on the 3d of May.
[7] Autograph. Pl. II. N° 25.

LETTER LIJ.

To my ryth Worchepfull
huſbond Ion Paſton be
thys delyv'yd in haſt.

RYTH Worchepfull huſbonde I recomand me to yow pleſyth it yow to weet that I receyvyd yowyr lettr yt ye ſent me by nycolas Colman on Sonday laſt paſt and as for the mater yt ye deſyiryd me to breke of to my Coſyn rokwode it fortunyd ſo yt he came to me on Sonday to dyner ſone aftyr yt I had yowyr lettr and when we had dynyd I mevyd to hym ther of in covert termys as playtr ſhall informe yow eraftyr and as I thowt by hym and ſo ded playtr alſo by the langwage yt he had to us yt he wold be as feythfull as he kowd or myte be to that good lorde yt ye wrot of and to yow alſo in ony thȳge yt he kowde or myte do in caſe wer yt he wer ſet in offyſe ſo yt he myth owte do and ther to he ſeyd he wolde be bownde in a ml li. and he was ſo myche worthe as for the todyr yt ye deſyiryd I ſcholde meve to of the ſame matr me ſemyth he is to yonge to take ony ſwhyche thyngys up on hym and alſo I knowe vryly yt he ſcholl nevr love feythfully the todyr man that ye deſyiryd yt he ſchuld do for when he rembryth the tyme yt is paſte and ther for I ſpak not to hym ther of thys day was holde a gret day at Okyll befor the undyr ſchreve and the undyr exchetor for the matr of ſyr Ion Faſtolfys londys and ther was my Coſyn rookwod and my Coſyn Ion Berney of Redh'm and dyv's odyr jentylmen and thryfty men

LETTER LII.

To my right worſhipful Huſband John Paſton, be this delivered in haſte.

RIGHT worſhipful Huſband, I recommend me to you, pleaſeth it you to weet that I received your Letter, that ye ſent me by Nicholas Colman on Sunday laſt paſt; and as for the matter that ye deſired me to break of to my Couſin Rookwood, it fortuned ſo that he came to me on Sunday to dinner, ſoon after that I had your Letter, and when we had dined, I moved to him thereof in covert terms, as Playters ſhall inform you hereafter; and as I thought by him, and ſo did Playters alſo, by the language that he had to us, that he would be as faithful as he could or might be to that good Lord that ye wrote of, and to you alſo, in any thing that he could or might do, in caſe were that he were ſet in office ſo that he might ought do, and thereto he ſaid he would be bound in a 1000*l.* and *(if)* he were ſo much worth.

As for the other, that ye deſired I ſhould move to of the ſame matter, me ſeemeth he is too young to take any ſuch things upon him, and alſo I know verily that he ſhall never love faithfully the other man, that ye deſired that he ſhould do for, when he remembereth the time that is paſt, and therefore I ſpake not to him thereof.

This day was holden a great day at Okyll (*Acle*) before the Under Sheriff and the Under Eſcheator of the matter of Sir John Faſtolf's Lands, and there was my Couſin Rookwood, and my Couſin John Berney, of Reedham, and divers other gentlemen,

men of the contr^r and the mat^r is well ſped aftyr yowr intent blyſſyd be god as ye ſchall have knowlage of in haſt I ſuppoſe playt^r ſchall be w^t yow on Sonday or on monday next comȳg if he may ye have many good prayers of the poer pepyl y^t god ſchuld ſped yow at thys p^rlement for they leve in hope y^t ye ſchold helpe to ſet a wey y^t they myte leve in bett^r peſe in thys contre' thane they have do befor and y^t [1] Wollys ſchold be p^r-veyd for y^t they ſchuld not go owt of thys lond as it hathe be ſuffryd to do be for and thane ſchall the poer pepyll more leve bettyr thane they have do by her ocwpacon ther in Thom's Bone hathe ſalde all yowyr wole her for xx^d a ſtone and goode ſwerte fownd to yow ther for to be payid a myhellmas next comȳg and it is ſolde ryth well aftyr y^t the wole was for the moſte part was ryte febyll It' ther be bowt for yow iij horſe at ſeynt [2] feythys feyr and all be trotterys ryth fayir horſe god ſave hem and they be well kepyd It' yowyr myllys at Heylyſdō be late for xij marke and the myller to fynde the reparacon and rychard Calle hathe let all yowyr londys at Caſt' but as for mawtby londys they be not let yet Wyll'm Whyte hathe payid me a geyne thys daye hys x li. and I have mad hym a qwetans ther of be cauſe I had not hys oblygacon Ther is gret talkȳg in thys contre of the deſyir of my lorde of [3] York the pepyll reporte full worchepfully of my

This Letter diſcovers to us ſome of the politics of the times, probably when the Earl of Warwick had taken diſpleaſure at the King's marriage, and informs us that the Yorkiſts were fearful that too much lenity might be ſhewn to the Lancaſtrians; to what good Lord Margaret Paſton and her Huſband wiſhed her Couſin Rookwood to be faithful is not mentioned, it probably was to the Duke of Norfolk.

and thrifty men of the country, and the matter is well ſped after your intent, bleſſed be God! as ye ſhall have knowledge of in haſte.

I ſuppoſe Playters ſhall be with you on Sunday or on Monday next coming if he may; ye have many good prayers of the poor people that God ſhould ſpeed you at this Parliament, for they live in hope that ye ſhould help to ſet a way that they might live in better peace in this Country than they have done before, and that [1] Wools ſhould be purveyed for, that they ſhould not go out of this land, as it hath been ſuffered to do before, and then ſhall the poor people more live better than they have done by their occupation therein. Thomas Bone hath ſold all your Wool here for 20*d.* a ſtone, and good ſurety found to you therefore to be paid at Michaelmas next coming, and it is ſold right well after that (*becauſe*) the wool was for the moſt part right feeble.

Item, there be bought for you three horſes at Saint [2] Faith's-Fair, and all be trotters, right fair horſes, God ſave them, and they be well keeped.

Item, your Mills at Helleſdon be let for twelve marks (8*l.*) and the Miller to find the reparation; and Richard Calle hath let all your lands at Caiſter, but as for Mawtby lands they be not let yet. William White hath paid me again this day his 10*l.* and I have made him an acquittance thereof, becauſe I had not his obligation.

There is great talking in this country of the deſire of my Lord of [3] York, the people report full worſhipfully of my Lord of

[1] We find by this Letter that the exportation of wool was an hardſhip upon the poor, who by that means were deprived of work in that branch of the manufacture which affected their ſpinning, &c.

[2] There is at this time a conſiderable Fair at this place.

[3] George Nevil became Archbiſhop of York in 1464, and died in 1476.

Warwick.

lord of [4] Warwyk they have no fer her but y[t] he and othyr ſcholde ſchewe to gret favor to hem y[t] have be rewyllerys of thys contre be for tyme I have done all yowyr erandys to Syr Thom's Howes y[t] ye wrote to me for I ame ryth glade y[t] ye have ſped welle in yowyr materys be twyx ſyr Fylyp Wentworthe and yow and ſo I p'y god ye may do in all othyr mat'ys to hys pleſans as for the wrytȳgys y[t] ye deſyiryd y[t] Playt[r] ſchulde ſende yow rychard Call told me y[t] they wer at Herry Barborys at the tempyll Gate the [5] mayir and the mayires ſent hedyr her dynerys thys day and Ion Dame came w[t] hem and they dynyd her I am beholde to hem for they have ſent to me dyv's tymys ſythe ye yed henſe the meyr ſeyth y[t] ther is no Ientylman in Northefolk y[t] he woll do more for thane he wole for yow if it laye in hys poer to do for yow [6] J Perſe is ſtylle in p[r]ſone but he wolle not confeſe mor thane he ded when ye wer at home Edmond Brome was w[t] me and tolde me y[t] perſe ſent for hym for to come ſpek w[t] hym and he tolde me y[t] he was w[t] hym and examynyd hym but he wold not be a knowe to hym y[t] he hade no knowlage wher no goode was of hys maſt[r]ys more thane he hade knowlageyd to yow he tolde me y[t] he ſent for hym to deſyir hym to labor to yow and to me for hym if ye had be at home and he tolde me y[t] he

[4] Richard Nevil, Earl of Warwick, was ſlain at the battle of Barnet, in 1471.

[5] As the exact date of the year of this Letter cannot be aſcertained, we cannot determine who this Mayor of Norwich was, though it muſt have been either John Gilbert, Thomas Ellis, or John Chytock. John Damme had been the Recorder, and might perhaps be ſo now.

[6] What offence Perſe had committed does not appear, nor can I underſtand the expreſſion "that the Dede may have part of hys owne Goode." An ingenious Friend ſuggeſted the

[4] Warwick, they have no fear here but that he and other ſhould ſhew too great favour to them that have been rulers of this country before time.

I have done all your errands to Sir Thomas Howes that ye wrote to me for; I am right glad that ye have ſped well in your matters betwixt Sir Philip Wentworth and you, and ſo I pray God ye may do in all other matters to his pleaſance (*pleaſure*).

As for the writings that ye deſired that Playters ſhould ſend you, Richard Calle told me that they were at Harry Barber's, at the Temple Gate.

The [5] Mayor and the Mayoreſs ſent hither their dinners this day, and John Damme came with them, and they dined here; I am beholden to them for they have ſent to me divers times ſince ye yed (*went*) hence; the Mayor ſaith that there is no gentleman in Norfolk that he would do more for than he would for you, if it lay his power to do for you.

[6] J. Perſe is ſtill in priſon, but he will not confeſs more than he did when ye were at home. Edmund Brome was with me, and told me that Perſe ſent for him for to come and ſpeak with him, and he told me that he was with him and examined him, but he would not be a knowe (*acknowledge*) to him, that he had no knowledge where no goods was of his Maſter's more than he had knowledged to you; he told me that he ſent for him to deſire him to labour to you and to me for him if ye had been at home;

the following explanation: might not Perſe have murdered ſome one and ſecreted his goods, which he refuſes to acknowledge, but part of which, if they had been diſcovered would have been diſpoſed off for the benefit of the Soul of the deceaſed, in procuring Maſſes, &c. to be ſung for him, ſo that in fact by theſe means *the dead might be ſaid to have part of his own goods.*

This explanation will appear perhaps far-fetched, but it is adduced ſolely with a hope that it might prove a clue to a diſcovery of the real meaning of this paſſage.

and

he ſeyd to hym a yen y^{t} he wold nev^{r} labor for hym but he myth know y^{t} he wer trwe to hys maſtyr thow it lay in hys power to do ryth myche for hym I ſuppoſe it ſchulde do none harme thow the ſeyd Perſe wer remevyd ferther I p'y to Gode yeve g'ce y^{t} the trowthe may be knowe and that the dede may have part of hys ow'ne goode and the blyſſyd t'nyte have yow in hys kep$\bar{y}$g Wretyn ī haſt at Heylyſden the tueſday next aftyr ſeynt lwke.

By yowyrs

[7] M. P.

11 ¾ by 8 ½.
Paper Mark,
A Bull.
Pl. IX. N° 10.

[7] Autograph. Pl. II. N° 25. Seal, a Fleur de Lys. Pl. XIV. N° 4.

LETTER LIII.

To my ryght Wyrſhypfull huſbond Iohn Paſton by thys delyv'y in haſt.

PLEASE it you to· wyte that on Sato'rday laſt your ſerv'nts Naunton Wyks and other wer at Drayton and ther toke a dyſtreſſe for the rent and ferm that was to pay to the nomber of lxxvij nete and ſo broght them hom to Haylleſdon and put hem in the Pynfold and ſo kept hem ſtyll ther from the ſeyd ſato'r

and he told me, that he ſaid to him again, that he would never labour for him but (*unleſs*) he might know that he were true to his Maſter, though it lay in his power to do right much for him; I ſuppoſe it ſhould do none harm though the ſaid Perſe were removed further. I pray to God give grace that the truth may be known, and that the dead may have part of his own goods, and the bleſſed Trinity have you in his keeping.

Written in haſte, at Helleſdon, the Tueſday next after Saint Luke.

By yours

[7] MARGARET PASTON.

Helleſdon,
Tueſday, October,
between 1464 and 1466.
4 and 6 E. IV.

LETTER LIII.

To my right worſhipful Huſband John Paſton, be this delivered in haſte.

PLEASE it you to weet, that on Saturday laſt your ſervants Naunton, Wykes, and others were at Drayton, and there took a diſtreſs for the rent and farm that was to pay, to the number of ſeventy-ſeven neat (*beaſts*), and ſo brought them home to Helleſdon, and put them in the Pinfold, and ſo kept them ſtill

ſato'r day mornyng un to monday at iij at Clok at after non Fyrſt on the ſame ſat'or day the ten'nts folwyd uppon and deſyryd to have ther Catell ayen and I awunſweryd hem yf they wold do pay ſuch dewts as they oght for to pay to you that then they ſhold have ther Catell delyv'yd ayen or els yf they wer not a power to pay redy money that then they to fynd ſuffycyant ſuerty to pay the money at ſuch a day as they mygh agrye w^t^ me and therto to be bonden to you by obligacyon and that they ſeyd they durſt not for to take uppon hem for to be bonden And as for money they had non for to pay at that tyme and therfor I kept ſtylle the beſtys. Harleſton was at Norwych and ſend for the ten'nts the ſeyd ſato'r day at after non and ther by the menys of the Bayllyf of Coſhay put the ten'nts in ſuch feer ſayng that yf they wold pay ſuch dewts or els for to be bonden to pay that then they wold put hem owte of ſuch londs as they huld bondly of the lordſhyp and ſo to dyſtrayn hem and trobell hem that they ſhuld be wery of ther part and that put hem ſuch feer that they druſt nother pay nor be bonden and on the ſame day at evyn-ſong time Harleſton Com to me to Hayleſdon deſyryng me that I wold delyv^r^ a yen the ſeyd dyſtreſſe and as for ſuch dyſtreſſys as they had taken here of your ten'nts ſhold be delyv'yd a yen in lyke forme and I ſeyd I wold not delyv^r^ hem ſoo and I told hem

I have given this Letter as containing not only the whole proceſs of a Replevin, but likewiſe to ſhew the diſagreeable ſituation the Tenants of the Lands and Manors were put into when the Landlords and Lords of Manors diſagreed.

Drayton and Helleſdon had been the Manors of Sir John Faſtolf, and were now by his death in the poſſeſſion of John Paſton, as one of his Executors and Truſtees; this Letter there-

there from the ſaid Saturday Morning unto Monday three at clock at afternoon. Firſt on the ſame Saturday the Tenants followed upon, and deſired to have their Cattle again; and I anſwered them if they would do pay ſuch dewts (*debts* or *dues*), as they ought for to pay to you, that then they ſhould have their cattle delivered again; or elſe if they were not a power (*were not able*) to pay ready money, that then they to find ſufficient ſurety to pay the money at ſuch a day as they might agree with me, and there to to be bounden to you by obligation; and that they ſaid they durſt not for to take upon them for to be bounden, and as for money they had none for to pay at that time, and therefore I kept ſtill the beaſts.

Harleſton was at Norwich, and ſent for the Tenants the ſaid Saturday at afternoon, and there, by the means of the Bailiff of Coſſey, put the Tenants in ſuch fear, ſaying that if they would pay ſuch debts, or elſe for to be bounden to pay, that then they would put them out of ſuch lands as they held bondly of the Lordſhip, and ſo to diſtrain them and trouble them, that they ſhould be weary of their part; and that put them (*in*) ſuch fear that they durſt neither pay nor be bounden.

And on the Sunday at even-ſong time Harleſton camẽ to me to Helleſdon, deſiring me that I would deliver again the ſaid diſtreſs; and as for ſuch diſtreſſes as they had taken here of your Tenants (*they*) ſhould be delivered again in like form; and I ſaid I would not deliver them ſo, and told them that I would

therefore muſt have been written after Sir John's deceaſe. A Replevin is a Writ (*Replegiare de averiis*) brought by one whoſe Cattle are diſtrained, or put in pound upon any cauſe by another, upon ſurety given to the Sheriff to purſue, or anſwer the action at law.

Autograph. Pl. II. N° 25.

hem that I wold delyv^{r} hem as ys Wryten a fore and other wyſe not and other wyſe I wold not delyv^{r} hem but by the form of lawe and other Comynycacyon was had by twene us at that tyme of dyv's maters whych wer to long to wryte at thys tyme but ye ſhall have knowlych therof in haſt and on Monday next after at IX at Clok ther com Pynchemor to Hayleſdon w^{t} a replevyn whych was made in Harleſton ys name as Underſtewerd of the Duche ſayng that the beſts were taken uppon the Duche fee wherfor he deſyryd me to mak hym lev'y of the ſeyd beſts ſo taken and ſeyd I wold not delyv^{r} hem on to the tyme that I had examenyd the ten'nts of the trough and ſo I ſend theder Wyks w^{t} Pynchemor to underſtond what they wold ſay and the ten'nts ſeyd that ther was taken non uppon the Duch' at ther knowlych ſave only Pyrs Warryn the yonger and Paynter ſeyd that ther Catell was taken uppon the Duche whych they connot p've by non record ſave only by ther awyn ſayng and ſo we wold not A bey that replevyn and ſo they dep^{r}tyd and at iij at Clock at after non Pynchemor com to Haylyſdon a yen w^{t} ij men whych broght w^{t} hem a replevyn from the ſhyryff whos namys be Iohn Whytherley and Robert Ranſon whych requyryd me by the ſame replevyn to make them delyv'y of the ſeyd beſtys taken at Drayton and ſo I ſyyng the Shyryffs Replevyn and under hys ſeale bade my men delyv^{r} hem and ſoo they wer delyv'yd and as for all other maters that ye have wretyn to of I wyll ſpede me to ſend you a Awnſwer as haſtely as I may for I may no leyſor have to

wryte

deliver them as is written afore and otherwiſe not, and otherwiſe I would not deliver them but by the form of law. And other communication was had between us at that time of divers matters, which were too long to write at this time, but ye ſhall have knowledge thereof in haſte.

And on Monday next after at nine at clock there came Pynchemore to Helleſdon with a Replevin, which was made in Harleſton's name as Under-ſteward of the Duchy, ſaying that the beaſts were taken upon the Duchy Fee, wherefore he deſired me to make him livery of the ſaid beaſts ſo taken; and I ſaid I would not deliver them unto the time that I had examined the Tenants of the truth, and ſo I ſent thither Wykes with Pynchemore to underſtand what they would ſay; and the Tenants ſaid that there was taken none upon the Duchy at their knowledge, ſave only Pyrſe Waryn the younger, and Paynter ſaid that their cattle were taken upon the Duchy, which they cannot prove by none record, ſave only by their own ſaying; and ſo we would not obey that Replevin, and ſo they departed; and at three at clock at afternoon Pynchemore came to Helleſdon again with two men, which brought with them a Replevin from the Sheriff, whoſe names be John Witherley and Robert Ranſon, which required me by the ſame Replevin to make them delivery of the ſaid beaſts taken at Drayton; and ſo I, ſeeing the Sheriff's Replevin under his ſeal, bad my men deliver them, and ſo they were delivered.

And as for all other matters that ye have written to (*me*) of, I will ſpeed me to ſend you an anſwer as haſtily as I may, for I may

wryte no more to you thys tyme the blyſſyd Trynyte have you in his kepyng Wryten at Hayleſdon the xx day of May.

By youre

M. P.

Paper Mark.
Bull's Head and Star.
Pl. VIII. N° 2.

LETTER LIII.

To my ryght wyrſhypfull Huſbond Iohn Paſton be thys delyv'yd in haſte.

RYGHT Wyrſhypfull Huſbonde I recomaunde me to you pleaſe it you to wyte that I have ſend to M John Smyth and to M Stephyn to have A vyſe for the Church of Drayton and they ſend me word that ther moſte be had a Comyſſion from the Byſhop to calle in the perſon [1] Flowredew and that moſt be proclaymyd in the Church of Drayton iij tymes by a [2] Deen and after that yff he appyre not w^{t} ī vj monthys āfter the fyrſt p'cla-

The beginning of this Letter is curious, as it furniſhes us with an account of the proceſs to diſpoſſeſs a Parſon of his Church; what Flowerdew had done to incur deprivation does not appear.

[1] John Flowerdew was inſtituted to the Rectory of Drayton on the 15th of March, 1461, on the preſentation of John Paſton, Eſq. and Thomas Howes, Clerk.

macion

may no leiſure have to write no more to you at this time. The bleſſed Trinity have you in his keeping. Written at Helleſdon, the 20th day of May.

By yours

MARGARET PASTON.

Helleſdon,
Monday, 20th of May,
1465. 5 E. IV.

LETTER LIV.

To my right worſhipful Huſband John Paſton, be this delivered in haſte.

RIGHT worſhipful Huſband, I recommend me to you; pleaſe it you to weet that I have ſent to Maſter John Smyth and to Maſter Stephen to have advice for the Church of Drayton; and they ſend me word that there muſt be had a Commiſſion from the Biſhop to call in the Parſon [1] Flowerdew, and that muſt be proclaimed in the Church of Drayton three times by a [2] Dean, and after that if he appear not within ſix

At the time that this and the foregoing Letter was written, there was a diſpute between the Executors of Sir John Faſtolf, and the Duke of Suffolk, concerning theſe Eſtates at Drayton, Helleſdon, &c.

[2] This means the Rural Dean, who had a diſtrict of ten Churches, in the Country, wherein he exerciſed a juriſdiction of great advantage to eccleſiaſtical diſcipline, and the ſentences of ſuperior eccleſiaſtical Courts were to be executed by him.

months

macion that then he for to be depryvyd and the patron to p'ſent whom he luſte and ells your p'ſentacyon ys not ſufficyant and I have ſo p'veyd y^t a Comyſſyon ys hadde and ſhal be ſ^rvyd as haſtely as it may be As for Iohn Ryſyng I have ſent to hym to wyte the cauſe that he ys not broght up to london and he ſayth that he Callyd uppon the Shyrff that he myght be had up for Com to hys awnſwer and the Shyrff told hym that he wold not bryng hym up at hys owyn Coſte and Iohn Andres ſeyd that he wold not have hym up and ſo he ys ſtyll in p'ſon at Jpſwych and ſo ſhall he be but yf ye canne fynde the beter mene for to have hym oute J have ſent to hym xiij^s iiij^d to help hym ſylf ther w^t he payth for hys borde wykely xx^d and hopton and Smyth be ther ſtyll allſo and they have money ynogh wher ſom ev^r that they have it Ryſyng dymeth that they have Confort of the other p'ty and I ſend you A Copy of the Warant that they wer A reſtyd by &c. I ſpake not w^t my moder ſyn Ryc' Calle broght me the lett^r from you tochyng her mater for I myght have no leſor when I ſpeke w^t her at leyſure I wyll remember her in that mater acordyng to your wrytyng and as for your ten'nts of Drayton as I canne underſtond by hem they be ryght gode and trew hertyd to you to ther powers and full fayn wold that ye had it A yen in peaſſe for they had as leffe al moſt be ten'nts to the Devell as to the Duke except Wyll Herne Pers at Sloth and on Knott of the ſame Towne for they be not gode all your ten'nts at Hayleſdon and Drayton except thes iij be ryght glad

that

months after the firſt Proclamation, that then he to be deprived, and the Patron to preſent whom he luſt (*liſts*), and elſe your preſentation is not ſufficient. And I have ſo purveyed that a Commiſſion is had, and ſhall be ſerved as haſtily as it may be.

As for John Ryſing I have ſent to him to weet the cauſe that he is not brought up to London, and he ſaith that he called upon the Sheriff that he might be had up for (*to*) come to his anſwer, and the Sheriff told him, that he would not bring him up at his own coſt; and John Andrews ſaid that he would not have him up, and ſo he is ſtill in priſon at Ipſwich; and ſo ſhall he be but if (*unleſs*) ye can find the better mean for to have him out; I have ſent to him 13*s.* 4*d.* to keep himſelf therewith, he payeth for his board weekly twenty-pence; and Hopton and Smith be there ſtill alſo, and they have money enough, that whereſoever they have it; Ryſing ſeemeth that they have comfort of the other party; and I ſend you the Copy of the Warrant that they were arreſted by, &c.

I ſpake not with my Mother ſince Richard Calle brought me the Letter from you touching her matter, for I might have no leiſure; when I ſpeak with her at leiſure I will remember her in that matter according to your writing; and as for your Tenants of Drayton, as I can underſtand by them, they be right good and true hearted to you to their powers, and full fain would that ye had it again in peace, for they had as leffe (*lief*) almoſt be Tenants to the Devil as to the Duke, except Will. Herne, Perſe at Sloth, and one Knott of the ſame Town, for they be not good.

All your Tenants at Helleſdon and Drayton, except theſe three,

that we err ther A mongs hem and ſo be many other of our olꝺ nebers and Frends and but yf ye com hom by [3] Wenſday or Thurſday in Wytſon Wyke I p'poſe me to ſſee you in ſecrete wyſe by [4] Trynyte Sonday but yf yꝺ. ſend to me contr'y comaundement er that tyme and I p'y you ſend me yeur Avyſe how ye wyll that We doo A yenſt the next Shyr whych ſhulbe the Monday next after Trynyte Sonday as for Callyng uppon the Replevyn that the beſts of Drayton wer delyv'yd by. It' Ric' Calle told me that ye deſyryd to have M phylyp ys name and hys name ys Phylyp lypzeate and I ſend you a letter by Henr Wylton ys man wherin I wrote M' Phylyp ys name and in the ſame lett' I wrote to you for Wyll Lumnor. I p'y you ſend me word yf ye have it and the Blyſshyd Trynyte have you in hys kypyng Wryten the Monday next after [5] Aſſencyon Day.

By yours

[6] M. P.

12 by 8 ½.

[3] 5th or 6th of June. [4] 9th of June. [5] 23d of May.

be right glad that we are there amongſt them, and ſo be many others of our old neighbours and Friends; and but if (*unleſs*) ye come home by [3] Wedneſday or Thurſday in Whitſun week, I purpoſe me to ſee you in ſecret wiſe by [4] Trinity Sunday, but if (*unleſs*) ye ſend to me contrary commandment ere that time; and I pray you ſend me your advice how ye will that we do againſt the next ſhire, which ſhall be the Monday next after Trinity Sunday, as for calling upon the Replevin that the beaſts of Drayton were delivered by.

Item, Richard Calle told me that ye deſired to have Maſter Philip's name, and his name is Philip Lypzate, and I ſent you a Letter by Henry Wilton's man, wherein I wrote Maſter Philip's name; and in the ſame Letter I wrote to you for Will. Lumnor; I pray you ſend me word if ye have it, and the bleſſed Trinity have you in his keeping. Written the Monday next after [5] Aſſenſion Day.

By yours

[6] MARGARET PASTON.

Monday, 27th of May,
1465. 5 E. IV.

[6] Autograph. Pl. II. N° 25.

LETTER LII.

To my maſtre Iohn
Paſton in haſt.

PLESITH it youre Mayſterſchip to witte of the rwle and diſpoſicon of the [1] M. Phīp and the balyf of Coſſey w[t] others of my lorde of Suff. men on Monday laſt paſt at aftrenoon were at Heyleſdon w[t] the nombre of CCC men for to haue entred notw[t]ſtandyng they ſeyde they Come not for to entre but w[t]oute dought and they had been ſtrong Jnough for vs they wolde haue entred and that we vndreſtonde nough but we knowyng of ther Comyng and p'veyd ſo for hem y[t] we wer ſtronge J nough we had lx men w[t]iñe the place and gonnes and ſuche ordynauns ſo that if they had ſatte vppon vs they had be diſtroyed And ther my [2] Maſtres was w[t]ine and my Maſtr S[r] Iohn and hathe gate hym as grete worſchip for that day as any gentelmā myght doo and ſo is it reported of the p'tye and in all Norwiche And my lorde of [3] Norwiche ſent theder M. John Salett and M John Bulleman for to trete and ſo they ded And the Duc men ſeide they had a warant for to Attache Ioh' Dawbeney Wyks Calle Hunewrthe and bliclyng and other weche they

This and the following Letter, giving an account of the proceedings of the Duke of Suffolk's men at Helleſdon, of their attempts there, and of the ſteps taken by thoſe in poſſeſſion to oppoſe them, exhibit a true picture of the times, when the numerous fellowſhips of the great men, ſometimes with, and ſometimes without the knowledge of their Lords, attacked the ſmaller fellowſhips of their inferior neighbours, either on a pretence of having ſome title to their Eſtates, or under colour of having warrants to apprehend them on civil ſuits, or on proſecutions for felonies, &c.

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LETTER LV.

To my Maſter John Paſton, in haſte.

PLEASETH it your maſterſhip to weet of the rule and diſpoſition of the [1] M Philip and the bailiff of Coſſey, with others of my Lord of Suffolk's men, on Monday laſt paſt at afternoon *(who)* were at Helleſdon, with the number of three hundred men for to have entered, notwithſtanding they ſaid they came not for to enter, but without doubt and *(if)* they had been ſtrong enough for us, they would have entered, and that we underſtand, now but we knowing of their coming and purveyed ſo for them, that we were ſtrong enough; we had ſixty men within the place, and guns, and ſuch ordnance, ſo that, if they had ſet upon us, they had been deſtroyed; and there my [2] Miſtreſs was within and my Maſter Sir John, and (*he*) hath gotten him as great worſhip for that day as any gentleman might do, and ſo is it reported of the party and in all Norwich; and my Lord of [3] Norwich ſent thither Maſter John Salett, and Maſter John Bulleman for to treat, and ſo they did; and the Duke's men ſaid they had a warrant for to attach John Daubeney, Wykes, Calle, Hunworth, and Blickling and other, which they would have, and my

[1] This does not clearly point out the perſon.

[2] We have often ſeen Margaret Paſton in the character of Wife, Mother, and Friend, but this is the firſt time of her appearance as the Governeſs of a fortreſs, for ſuch this may now be called.

[3] Walter Lyhart, was Biſhop o fNorwich from 1446 to 1472.

Maſter

wuld haue and my M S^r Iohn Anſwerd them and ſeide y^t they were not w^tine and though we had ben they ſhuld not haue had hem And ſo they deſired oon of our men and ſo Naunton ſtede by my maſtres ad haxed hem whom they wold haue and ſeyde if they wold haue hem he wold go w^t hem And ſo he ded And on the next day they caryed hym forthe to my lord of Suff. to Claxton through Norwich And ther we had founde a remedy for hym for to haue lette hym and he wold not but nedys go forthe w^t hem but like a jentelman he was entreated amongs hem And Harleſton deſyred at Heyleſdon to ſpeke w^t my Maſtre S^r John And ſo he ded And ſeyde to hym it were ryght weele don that he rode to my lord of Suff. and deſired hym in any wice that he ſchulde do ſo And ſeyde that it was hes dwte ſo for to do in aſmoche as my lorde was Come to Contre and that he wolde ryde w^t hym And brynge hym to my lorde And he Anſwerd and ſeide to hym whan that he vndreſtode that my lord were hes fathers goode lord and hes y^t yanne he wolde ſe hes lordſhip And ell he had non aronde to hym and ſo they dep'ted And thanne Appoyntement was taken that they ſhull ſende home ther men and we ſchuld ſend home oure And nough my lord of Suff. men come from Claxton to Norwich and face vs and fray vppon vs this dayly ther fylle vppon me befor ſevayne dore xij of hes men viij of them in harneys and ther they wold haue myſcheved me and the ſcheryf letted hem and other and they make ther Awaunte were y^t I may be goten J ſchul dye and ſo they lye in A wayte for to myſcheve me Dawbeney and Wyks And ſo I dare not ryde out alone w^toute A man w^t me And I

Maſter Sir John anſwered them and ſaid that they were not within, and though we had been, they ſhould not have had them; and ſo they deſired one of our men, and ſo Naunton ſtood by my Miſtreſs and aſked them whom they would have, and ſaid if they would have him, he would go with them, and ſo he did, and on the next day they carried him forth to my Lord of Suffolk to Claxton, through Norwich, and there we had found a remedy for him for to have let him, and he would not, but needs go forth with them; but like a gentleman he was entreated amongſt them. And Harleſton deſired at Helleſdon to ſpeak with my Maſter Sir John, and ſo he did, and ſaid to him it were right well done that he rode to my Lord of Suffolk, and deſired him in any wiſe that he ſhould do ſo, and ſaid that it was his duty ſo for to do, in as much as my Lord was come *(in)* to (*the*) country, and that he would ride with him, and bring him to my Lord; and he anſwered and ſaid to him, when that he underſtood that my Lord were his Father's good Lord and his, that then he would ſee his Lordſhip, and elſe he had none errand to him; and ſo they departed; and then appointment was taken that they ſhould ſend home their men, and we ſhould ſend home ours; and now my Lord of Suffolk's men come from Claxton to Norwich, and face us and fray upon us, this daily, there fell upon me before Swaine's door twelve of his men, eight of them in harneſs, and there they would have miſchieved me, and the Sheriff letted *(hindered)* them and other, and they make their avaunt were that I may be gotten, I ſhould die, and ſo they lie in await for to miſchief me, Daubeney and Wykes; and ſo I dare not ride out alone without a man with me, and I underſtand there

vndreſtonde ther is Comyn an heyre determyner to enquer of all ryots And my lord of Suff and Yelu'ton be Comyſconers And ſo they ſey as money of vs as can be taken ſhal be endyted And hanged for' w^t And ſo the people here are dyſmayed w^t ther rwle wherfore that it like you to ſende werd how my maſtres ſchal do at Heyleſdon and we in all other maters And wether ye wol that we feche A yene the flok of Heyleſdon for they are nough dreven to Cauſton and there go they on the heythe and my lord of Suff. wolbe at Drayton on lames Daye and kepe the Coort ther Wherefor ye muſt ſeke An remedy for it or ell it wol not do weele if my lord of [4] Norff. wold come he ſchulde make all weele for they feere hym Above All thyngs for it is noyced here y^t my lord of Norff. hathe taken p'tye in thes mater And all the Cuntre is cladde of it ſeyng y^t if he come they wooll hooly go w^t hym And me ſenethe it were wele don to meve my lord in it though ye ſchuld geue hym the p'fyghts of Heyleſdon and Drayton for the kepyng and ſom money be ſide for ye muſt ſeke ſom other remedy than ye do or ell in my Conſeyte it ſchull go to the divell and be diſtroyed and that in ryght ſchorte tyme And therfore at the reu'ence of god take ſom Appoyntement w^t M Yelu'ton ſuche as ye thynke ſchuld moſt hurt I beſeche you to p'don me of my writyng for I haue pitte to ſe the trybulacon that my Maſtres hathe here and all youre frends &c.

[4] John Mowbray, Duke of Norfolk, whoſe favour, it appears here, muſt have been purchaſed at a high price.

Almyghty

there is coming an Oyer *(and)* Determiner to enquire of all riots, and my Lord of Suffolk and Yelverton be Commiſſioners; and ſo they ſay as many of us as can be taken ſhall be endicted and hanged forthwith; and ſo the people here are diſmayed with their rule, wherefore that it like you to ſend word how my Miſtreſs ſhall do at Helleſdon, and we in all other matters; and whether ye will that we fetch again the flock of Helleſdon, for they are now driven to Cauſton, and there go they on the heath; and my Lord of Suffolk will be at Drayton on Lammas-day, and keep the Court there, wherefore ye muſt ſeek a remedy for it, or elſe it will not do well.

If my Lord of [4] Norfolk would come, he ſhould make all well, for they fear him above all things, for it is noiſed here that my Lord of Norfolk hath taken party in this matter, and all the country is glad of it, ſaying, that if he come they will wholly go with him.

And me ſeemeth it were well done to move my Lord in it, though ye ſhould give him the profits of Helleſdon and Drayton for the keeping, and ſome money beſide; for ye muſt ſeek ſome other remedy than ye do, or elſe in my conceit it ſhall go to the Devil, and be deſtroyed, and that in right ſhort time, and therefore at the reverence of God take ſome appointment with Maſter Yelverton, and ſuch as ye think ſhould moſt hurt.

I beſeech you to pardon me of my writing, for I have pity to ſee the tribulation that my Miſtreſs hath here, and all your Friends, &c.

Almyghty Jhu p'ſerue and kepe you wretē the Wedneſday next ſeint Thom's daye.

Yo^{r} pore ſ^{r}vūt and bedman

[5] Ric Calle.

[5] Autograph. Pl. xviii. N° 9.

11 ½ by 11.
Seal, an Eagle's Head eraſed, having an eſcroll iſſuing from his mouth.
Pl. xxiii. N° 8.

LETTER LVJ.

To my ryght worſchipfull
Huſbond Iohn Paſton in haſt.

RYGHT worſhypful huſbond I recomaund me to yow Preyeng you hertyly y^{t} ye wyl ſeke a meen y^{t} yowr ſ^{r}vauntys may be in pees for they be dayly in fer of ther lyvys the Duke Suff. men thretyn dayly Dawbeney Wykys and Ric Calle y^{t} wher ſo euer they may gete them they ſchold dye And affrayes have ben made on Rychard Calle this weke ſo y^{t} he was in gret Jupperte at Norwych among them And gret Affrayes have ben made uppon me and my Felaſhep her on Monday laſt paſſyd of whych Rychard Calle tellyth me y^{t} he hath ſent yow word of in wryghtyng mor pleynly than I may doo at thys tyme but I ſhal Jnforme yow mor pleynly heraftyr I ſuppoſe ther ſhal be

Almighty Jeſu preſerve and keep you. Written the Wedneſday next Saint Thomas's day *(7th of July)*.

Your poor Servant and Beadſman

RICHARD CALLE.

Wedneſday,
10th of July, 1465.
5 E. IV.

LETTER LVI.

To my right worſhipful Huſband John Paſton, in haſte.

RIGHT worſhipful Huſband, I recommend me to you, praying you heartily that ye will ſeek a mean that your ſervants may be in peace, for they be daily in fear of their lives; the Duke of Suffolk's men threaten daily Daubeney, Wykes, and Richard Calle, that whereſoever they may get them they ſhall die, and affrays have been made on Richard Calle this week, ſo that he was in great jeopardy at Norwich among them; and great affrays have been made upon me and my fellowſhip here on Monday laſt paſt, of which Richard Calle telleth me that he hath ſent you word of in writing, more plainly than I may do at this time, but I ſhall inform you more plainly hereafter.

gret labor ageyn yow and yowr ſeruaunts at the aſſyſis and ceſ-cions her wherfor me ſemyth ſauyng your bett^r advyce it wer wele do y^t ye ſhold ſpeke w^t y^e Juſticys or they com her And yf ye wol y^t I compleyn to them or to any other if good fortune me lyfe and helth I wol do as ye advyſe me to do for in good feyth I haue ben ſymply intretid amonge them. And what w^t ſykneſſe and troble y^t I haue had I am browte ryght lowe and weyke but to my power I wyl do as I can or may in your maters The Duk of ¹ Suff and bothe y^e Ducheſſys ſhal com to Claxton thys day as I am ynformyd and thys next weke he ſhal be at Coſſey whether he wol com ferther hyddyr ward or not I wot not yit It is ſeyd y^t he ſchold com hyddyr And yet hys men ſeyd her on Monday y^t he cleymyd no tytyl to thys place they ſeyd ther Comyng was but to take out ſuch ryotus peple as was her w^tin thys place And ſuche as wer the kyngys felonys and Indytyd and outlawyd men neu'the leſſe they wold ſchew no warauntys wherby to take non ſuch thow ther had ſuche her I ſuppoſe if they myght have com in peſably they wold have made an other cauſe of ther comyng whan alle was doo and they ſcholde dep^rte Harlyſton and other deſyryd me y^t I ſchold com and ſe myn olde lady and ſewe to my lorde and if any thyng wer amyſſe it ſchold be amendyd I ſeyd if I ſcholde ſewe for any remedye y^t I ſcholde ſewe ferther and lete the kynge and alle the

Margaret Paſton in this Letter in ſome meaſure continues the narrative of the riotous proceedings at Helleſdon and Norwich againſt her Huſband's Servants and Tenants by the Retainers of the Duke of Suffolk; ſhe pathetically complains of her troubles both of body and mind, and gives an alarming account of her bad ſtate of health, appearing however, under all her misfortunes, the careful, tender, and amiable Wife.

lordys

I ſuppoſe there ſhall be great labour againſt you and your ſervants at the Aſſizes and Seſſions here, wherefore me ſeemeth, ſaving your better advice, it were well done that ye ſhould ſpeak with the Juſtices ere they come here; and if ye will that I complain to them or to any other, if Good (*God*) fortune me life and health, I will do as ye adviſe me to do, for in good faith, I have been ſimply entreated among them; and what with ſickneſs, and trouble that I have had, I am brought right low and weak, but to my power I will do as I can or may in your matters.

The Duke of [1] Suffolk and both the Ducheſſes ſhall come to Claxton this day, as I am informed, and this next week he ſhall be at Coſſey, whether he will come further hitherward or not, I wot not yet; it is ſaid that he ſhould come hither, and yet his men ſaid here on Monday that he claimed no title to this place; they ſaid their coming was but to take out ſuch riotous people as was here within this place, and ſuch as were the King's felons, and endicted and outlawed men, nevertheleſs they would ſhew no warrants whereby to take none ſuch, though there had been ſuch here; I ſuppoſe, if they might have come in peaceably, they would have made another cauſe of their coming.

When all was done and they ſhould depart, Harleſton and other deſired me that I ſhould come and ſee mine old Lady, and ſue to my Lord, and if any thing were amiſs it ſhould be amended.

I ſaid if I ſhould ſue for any remedy, that I ſhould ſue further, and let the King and all the Lords of this land to have

[1] John de la Pole, Duke of Suffolk, married Elizabeth, Daughter of Richard Plantagenet, Duke of York, and Siſter of King Edward IV. The Ducheſs his Mother, the relict of the late Duke of Suffolk, was widow of Thomas de Montacute, Earl of Saliſbury, and Daughter and heir of Thomas Chaucer, Eſq. She was grand-daughter to that famous Poet, Geoffry Chaucer, and died in 1475.

know-

lordys of thys londe to haue knowlech what hathe be don to vs if ſo wer that the Deuk wolde meynten y^t^ hathe be don to vs by hys ſ^r^uauntys if ye wolde geue me leve I pray yow ſende me worde if ye wyl y^t^ I make any compleynt to the Duke or the Ducheſſe For as it is [2] tolde me they know not the pleyneſſe that hathe ben don in ſuch thyngys as hathe ben don in her namys I ſchold wryght muche mor to yow but for lak of leyſer I comaundyd my mayſt^r^ Tom thys Day to have com ageyn by me from Norwych when he had ſpokyn w^t^ rychard Calle but he cam not I wolde he wer qwyte of hys Jndytments ſo y^t^ he wer qwyte of yowr ſervyc for by my trowthe I holde the place y^e^ mor ongracyous y^t^ he is in for hys dyſpoſycion in dyverce thyngys y^e^ whych y^e^ ſchal be inform^d^ of her aft^r^ The Trynyte haue yow in kepyng Wretyn the Fryday next aft^r^ ſeynt Thom's.

By yowr

[3] M. P.

11 ½ by 12.

Paper Mark,
A Bull.
Pl. XXII. N° 16.

Seal, a Fleur de Lys.
Pl. XXIII. N° 7.

[2] It ſeems from her expreſſions here, that this riotous fellowſhip had proceeded to theſe outrageous lengths without the Duke's knowledge, and that ſhe appears to believe the report to be true.

knowledge what hath been done to us, if ſo were that the Duke would maintain that hath been done to us by his Servants, if ye would give me leave.

I pray you ſend me word, if ye will that I make any complaint to the Duke or the Ducheſs, for as it is [2] told me, they know not the plainneſs that hath been done in ſuch things as hath been done in their names.

I ſhould write much more to you but for lack of leiſure.

I commanded my Maſter Tom this day to have cóme again by me from Norwich, when he had ſpoken with Richard Calle, but he came not; I would he were quit of his indictment, ſo that he were quit of your ſervice, for by my truth, I hold the place the more ungracious that he is in, for his diſpoſition in divers things, the which ye ſhall be informed of hereafter.

The Trinity have you in keeping. Written the Friday next after Saint Thomas,

By your

[3] MARGARET PASTON.

Friday, 12th of July,
1465. 5 E. IV.

[3] Autograph. Pl. II. N° 25.

LET-

LETTER LVIJ.

To my maſtras Margaret Paſton
be this deliu'yd in haſt at london.

AFTYR all humbyll and moſt dwe recomendacion as lowly as I can I beſeche yow of yo^{r} blyſſyng Pleſyt yow to wet y^{t} I haue ſent to my fadyr to haue an anſwer of ſyche mat's as I haue ſent to hym for in haſt of whyche maty's the gretteſt of ſubſtans is for the man^{r} of Cotton beſechyng yow to remẽbyr hym of the ſame mat^{r} y^{t} I may haue an anſwer in y^{e} moſt haſty wyſe Alſo I pray yow that myn Ante [1] Poonyngys may be deſyiryd to ſend me an anſwer of ſyche mat'ys as ſche wotyth of by hym y^{t} ſchall brynge me an anſwer of y^{e} mat^{r} of Cotton Alſo modyr I beſeche yow y^{t} ther may be p'ueyd ſome meane y^{t} I myth haue ſent me home by y^{e} ſame meſenger ij peyir hoſe j payir blak and an othyr payir of Roſet whyche be redy made for me at the hoſers w^{t} y^{e} crokyd bak next to y^{e} blak freyrs gate w^{t}in ludgate Iohn Pampyng knowyth hym well Jnow I ſuppoſe and y^{e} blak hoſe be payid for he wyll ſend me y^{e} Roſet un payd for I beſeche yow y^{t} y^{is} ger be not forget for I haue not an hole hoſe for to doon I trowe they ſchall coſt bothe payr viij^{s} my brodyr

The eaſy and familiar ſtyle of this Letter will not be diſpleaſing to the Reader, perhaps he will ſmile at the particular directions concerning J. Paſton's hoſe, and his minute deſcription of the Hoſier.

I ſhould have been fearful that the jeſting way in which he adviſes his ſiſter Margery to apply for a good Huſband might have diſpleaſed the Saint, and made him turn a deaf ear

LETTER LVII.

To my Miſtreſs Margaret Paſton, be this delivered in haſte, at London.

AFTER all humble and moſt due recommendation, as lowly as I can, I beſeech you of your bleſſing, pleaſe it you to weet that I have ſent to my Father to have an anſwer of ſuch matters as I have ſent to him for in haſte, of which matters the greateſt of ſubſtance is for the Manor of Cotton, beſeeching you to remember him of the ſame matter, that I may have an anſwer in the moſt haſty wiſe.

Alſo I pray you that mine Aunt [1] Poynings may be deſired to ſend me an anſwer of ſuch matters as ſhe woteth of, by him that ſhall bring me an anſwer of the matter of Cotton.

Alſo Mother, I beſeech you that there may be purveyed ſome mean that I might have ſent me home by the ſame meſſenger two pair of Hoſe, one pair black, and another pair of ruſſet, which be ready made for me at the Hoſier's with the crooked back, next to the Black Friar's-Gate, within Ludgate; John Pamping knoweth him well enough I ſuppoſe, and *(if)* the black hoſe be paid for he will ſend me the ruſſet unpaid for; I beſeech you that this geer be not forgotten, for I have not an whole hoſe for to do on; I trow they ſhall coſt both pair 8*s*.

ear to her petition; it appears however rather remarkable that, as a papiſt, he ſhould make ſo free with the Holy Roods at Bermondſey.

[1] Elizabeth Paſton, ſhe firſt married Robert Poynings, Eſq. and afterward Sir George Browne, Knight, of Beechworth Caſtle, in Surrey.

[2] brodyr and my Suſtyr [3] Anne and all y[e] garyſon of Heylyſdon fare well blyſſyd be god and recomand hem to yow eu'ychon I pray yow voyſyt y[e] Rood of Northedor and ſeynt Sauyour at [4] barmonſey amonge whyll ye Abyd in london and lat my Suſtyr [5] Margery goo w[t] yow to prey to them y[t] ſche may haue a good hoſbond or ſche Com hom ayen and now I pray yow ſend vs ſome tydyngys as ye wer wonte to Comand me And the holy t'nyte haue yow in kepyng and my fayir Maſtras of y[e] fleet Wretyn at Norwyche on holy Rood Daye.

Yo[r] ſone and lowly ſervũt

[6] J. Paſton, p[t] poungeſt.

10 ½ by 4 ½.

[2] Sir John Paſton.

[3] Anne Paſton, afterwards the Wife of William Yelverton.

[4] The Abbey of Saint Saviour at Bermondſey, in Surrey, was founded in 1081, 15th William the Conqueror, by Alwin Child of London; it was ſurrendered in 1539, 31 H.

LETTER LVIII.

To my ryght wyrſhypfull hoſbond Iohn Paſton be thys delyu[r]yd in haſt.

RYGHT wyrſhypfull hoſbond I recomand me to you pleaſe it you to wyte that J was at Hayleſden uppon therſday laſte paſſyd and ſey the place ther and in gode feyth ther wyll

no

My [2] Brother, and my Siſter [3] Anne, and all the garriſon of Helleſdon fare well, bleſſed be God, and recommend them to you everyſh (*every*) one.

I pray you viſit the Rood of Northdoor and St. Saviour, at [4] Bermondſey, among while ye abide (*during your abode*) in London, and let my Siſter [5] Margery go with you to pray to them that ſhe may have a good Huſband ere ſhe come home again; and now I pray you ſend us ſome tidings as ye were wont to command me; and the Holy Trinity have you in keeping; and my fair Miſtreſs of the Fleet. Written at Norwich, on Holy Rood Day.

Your Son and lowly Servant

[6] JOHN PASTON, the youngeſt.

Norwich, Saturday,
14th of September, 1465.
5 E. IV.

31 H. VIII. when it was pulled down, and a Fair Houſe built on the ſite by Sir Thomas Pope, Knight.

[5] Margery Paſton, ſhe afterwards married Richard Calle.

[6] Autograph. Pl. IV. N° II.

LETTER LVIII.

To my right worſhipful Huſband John Paſton, be this delivered in haſte.

RIGHT worſhipful Huſband, I recommend me to you, pleaſe it you to weet that I was at Helleſdon upon Thurſday laſt paſt, and ſaw the place there, and in good faith there

no cryatur thynke how fowle and orubelly it ys arayed but yf they ſey it ther Comyth moch pepyll dayly to wonder ther uppon both of Norwych and of other placys and they ſpeke ſhamfully therof the Duck had be beter then a m^{l} li. that it had neu^{r} be don and ye haue the more gode wyll of the pepyll that it ys ſo foyll don and they made youre ten'ntys of Hayleſdon and Drayton w^{t} other to help to breke down the wallys of the place and the logge both god knowyth full evyll ayenſt ther wyllys but that thay derſt no notherwyſſe don for ferre J haue ſpoken w^{t} your ten'ntys of Hayleſdon and Drayton both and putte hem in Comfort as well as J canne. the Duck ys men renſackyd the Church and bare a way all the gode that was lefte ther both of ours and of the ten'nts and lefte not So moch but that they ſtode uppon the hey awter and ranſackyd the Jmages and toke a way ſuch as they myght fynd and put a way the p^{r}ſon owte of the Church tyll they had don and ranſackyd eu^{r}y mans hous in the Towne v or vj tymys and the Chyff mayſters of robbyng was the Baylly of Ey the Baylly of Stradbroke Thom's Slyford and Porter and Slyford was the Chyff robber of the Cherch and he hath moſt of the robbery next the Baylly of Ey and as for Lede Bras pewter yren Dorys Gatys and other ſtuffe of the hous men of Coſhay and Cauſton haue it. and that thay myght not cary thay have hewen it a ſonder in the moſt dyſſpytuoſe wyſe yf it myght be J wold ſom men of wyrſhop myght be ſend from the Kyng to ſee how it ys both ther and at

the

will no creature think how foully and horribly it is arrayed but if (*unleſs*) they ſaw it; there cometh much people daily to wonder thereupon, both of Norwich and of other places, and they ſpeak ſhamefully thereof; the Duke had by better than a thouſand pound that it had never been done, and ye have the more good will of the people, that it is ſo foully done; and they made your Tenants of Helleſdon and Drayton with other to help to break down the walls of the place and the Lodge both, God knoweth full evil againſt their wills, but that they durſt none other wiſe do for fear; I have ſpoken with your Tenants of Helleſdon and Drayton both, and put them in comfort as well as I can; the Duke's men ranſacked the Church, and bare away all the good that was left there, both of ours and of the Tenants, and left not ſo much but that they ſtood upon the high Altar and ranſacked the Images, and took away ſuch as they might find, and put away the Parſon out of the Church till they had done; and ranſacked every man's houſe in the town five or ſix times, and the chief maſters of robbing was the Bailiff of Eye, the Bailiff of Stradbrook, Thomas Slyford, and Porter; and Slyford was the chief robber of the Church, and he hath moſt of the robbery next the Bailiff of Eye; and as for lead, braſs, pewter, iron, doors, gates, and other ſtuff of the houſe, men of Coſſey and Cauſton have it, and that they might not carry they have hewn it aſunder in the moſt diſpiteous wiſe; if it might be, I would ſome men of worſhip might be ſent from the King to ſee

how

the logge or than any [1] ſnowys com that they may make report of the troth ellys it ſhall not mo be ſeyn ſo playnly as it may now and at the reverens of God ſpyde your maters nowe for it ys to orybell a coſt and trobell that we haue now dayly and moſt haue tyll it be other wyſe and your men dar not goo abowte to geder uppe your lyfflode and we kype her dayly more than xxx p'ſons for ſauacyon of us and the place for in very trowght and the place had not be kypyd ſtrong the Duck had Com hether.

Arblaſter thynketh verely that Hugh a Fen may do moch in your maters and he thynkyth that he wole do for you faythfully yf ye wyll &c. at the reverens of god yf any wyrſhypfull and p'fetabile mene may be take yn your maters for ſake it not in eſchuyng of our trobell and gret coſts and chargs that we haue and may growe here after it ys thoght here that yf my lord of Norff. wolld take uppon hym for you and that he may haue a Comyſſyon for to enquer of ſuch ryotts and robberyes as hath be don to you and other in thys Contray that then all the Contray wyll a wayte uppon hym and f've your entent for the pepyll lovyth and dredyth hym more then any other lord except the kyng and my lord of Warwyk &c.

We who fortunately live at a time of peace and domeſtic tranquillity, can ſcarcely believe the picture of ſavage manners here repreſented; if the Duke of Suffolk were ignorant of, or did not even encourage ſuch proceedings, it can hardly be ſuppoſed that his Retainers dared to have done ſuch miſchief; they certainly muſt know that what they did would not meet with their Lord's diſpleaſure.

Their behaviour in the Church is very extraordinary, as Papiſts almoſt univerſally pay great reſpect not only to their Prieſts, but to their places of public worſhip, eſteeming them as ſacred, and on no pretence to be violated or profaned.

how it is both there and at the Lodge, ere than any [1] Snows come, that they may make report of the truth, elſe it ſhall not more be ſeen ſo plainly as it may now; and at the reverence of God ſpeed your matters now, for it is too horrible a coſt and trouble that we have now daily, and muſt have till it be otherwiſe; and your men dare not go about to gather up your livelihood, and we keep here daily more than thirty perſons for ſavation of us and the place, for in very truth, and *(if)* the place had not been kept ſtrong, the Duke had come hither.

Arblaſter thinketh verily that Hugh a Fenn may do much in your matters, and he thinketh he will do for you faithfully if ye will, &c.

At the reverence of God, if any worſhipful and profitable mean may be taken in your matters, forſake it not in eſchewing of our trouble and great coſts and charges that we have, and may grow hereafter; it is thought here that if my Lord of Norfolk would take upon him for you, and that he may have a Commiſſion for to enquire of ſuch riots and robberies as hath been done to you and other in this country, that then all the country will await upon him, and ſerve your intent, for the people loveth and dreadeth him more than any other Lord, except the King and my Lord of Warwick, &c.

[1] If we may judge from the mention of Snow here, the Winters began earlier at this period than at the preſent ſeaſons, we having very rarely now any conſiderable fall of Snow before Chriſtmas.

Autograph. Pl. II. N° 25.

On the back of the Original Letter is written in an ancient hand, "A Lrē concerning the extreme dealing of the Duke of Suff. at Hayleſdon."

God

God haue you in hys kypyng and ſend ous gode tydyngs from you Wryten in haſte uppon the ſonday Seynt Symon and Jude ys Evyn.

By yours

M. P.

11 ½ by 17.

Paper Mark,
A Crozier.
Pl. xxvi. N° 6.

LETTER LIX.

* *A Lrē to I Paſton arm. from his wife ſhewing his impr ſoment in the ffleete.*

RYTH Worchepfull huſbond I recomand me to yow pleſyt yow to wet that I receyvyd yowyr lettyr yt ye ſent me by Iohn Holme on Wednyſday laſt paſt And alſo I receyvyd a nothyr lettyr on fryday at nyt yt ye ſent me by Nycolas Newmanys man of the whyche lettyrs I thanc yow for I ſchold ellys a thowt yt it had be wers wt yow than it hathe be or ſchall be by

* There is no direction to this Letter, but the words above inſerted are written in an ancient hand upon the back of it.

The firſt impriſonment of John Paſton was in conſequenee of a Writ of Treſpaſs brought againſt him by William Jenney, Eſq. Serjeant at Law, in Eaſter Term, 4 E. IV. 1464, when the iſſue being found for the Plaintiff, a capias pro fine was awarded for the King;

God have you in his bleſſed keeping, and ſend us good tidings from you. Written in haſte, upon the Sunday Saint Simon and Jude's Even.

By yours

MARGARET PASTON.

Sunday,
27th of October, 1465.
5 E. IV.

LETTER LIX.

* *A Letter to John Paſton, Eſq. from his Wife, ſhewing his Impriſonment in the Fleet.*

RIGHT worſhipful Huſband I recommend me to you, pleaſe it you to weet that I received your Letter that ye ſent me by John Holme on Wedneſday laſt paſt, and alſo I received another Letter on Friday at night, that ye ſent me by Nicholas Newman's man, of the which Letters I thank you, for I ſhould elſe have thought that it had been worſe with you than it hath

King; Paſton abſconded, and the Exigent was awarded and directed to the Sheriff of Suffolk, and he was called at four County Courts; but before the fifth he ſurrendered himſelf, and was committed to the Fleet. The ſecond in 1465, upon a vile ſuggeſtion that he was a Bondſman of the King. He died in London the 26th of May 1466, and was buried in the Priory of Bromholm, in Norfolk.

by the g'ce of Almyty God and yet I kowd not be mery ſethyn I had the laſt lettyr tyll thys day y^t the meyir ſent to me and ſent me werd y^t he had knowlege for very trowthe y^t ye wer delyv'yd owt of the Flet and y^t Howard was comytyd to ward for dyv's gret compleynts y^t wer mad to the kyng of hym it was talkyd in Norwyche and in dyv's othyr plaſys in y^e Contre on Sat'day laſt paſt y^t ye wer comytyd to Flet and in good feyth As I herd ſey the pepyle was ryth ſory ther of bothe of Norwyche and in the Cōntre ye ar ryth myche bownde to thank God and all tho y^t love yow y^t ye have ſo gret love of the pepyll as ye have ye ar myche behold to the [1] Meyir and to [2] Gylberd and to dyv's othyr of y^e aldyrmen for feythfully the' owe yow good wyll to ther porys I have ſpoke w^t Syr Thom's Howys for ſwyche thyngys as ye wrot to me for and he promyſyd me y^t he ſchold labo^r it aftyr yowyr intent as faſt as he kowd and in good feyth as my brodyr and Playt^r kan tell yow as be hys ſeyīg to us he is and wole be feythfull to yow and as for Wyll'm Wyrceſtyr he hathe be ſet ſo up on the [3] hone what by the p^rſon and by othyr as my brodyr and Playt^r ſchall telle yow y^t they hope he wole do well i now the p^rſon ſeyd Ryth well and pleynly to hym the p^rſon tolde me y^t he had ſpook w^t Syr Wyll'm [4] Chambyrleyn and w^t hys wyfe and he thynkyth y^t they wole do well j now

[1] Thomas Ellis was Mayor of Norwich in 1460, and again in 1465.

[2] John Gilbert had been Mayor in 1459, and in 1464. He died in 1472.

[3] This expreſſion is taken from ſetting a razor, and means that he had been talked to not only in a ſmooth, but likewiſe in a ſharp and ſevere manner.

[4] I ſhould have concluded this to have been Sir William Chamberlain, of Gedding, in Suffolk, a Knight of the Garter, who bravely fought under the Duke of Bedford, in the Wars in France, and who it is here ſaid "cowd do more eſe in ſwyche matyrs as ye wrot

been, or ſhall be, by the grace of Almighty God, and yet I could not be merry, ſince I had the laſt Letter till this day that the Mayor ſent to me, and ſent me word that he had knowledge for very truth that ye were delivered out of the Fleet; and that Howard was committed to ward for divers great complaints that were made to the King of him; it was talked in Norwich, and in divers other places in the country on Saturday laſt paſt, that ye were committed to the Fleet, and in good faith, as I heard ſay, the people was right ſorry thereof, both of Norwich and in the country, ye are right much bound to thank God, and all thoſe that love you, that ye have ſo great love of the people as ye have; ye are much beholden to the [1] Mayor, and to [2] Gilbert, and to divers others of the Aldermen, for faithfully they owe you good will to their powers.

I have ſpoken with Sir Thomas Howes for ſuch things as ye wrote to me for, and he promiſed me that he ſhould labour it after your intent as faſt as he could, and in good faith, as my brother and Playters can tell you, as by his ſaying to us, he is and will be faithful to you; and as for William Worceſter he hath been ſet ſo upon the [3] hone what by the parſon and by others, as my brother and Playters ſhall tell you, that they hope he will do well enough; the Parſon ſaid right well and plainly to him.—The Parſon told me that he had ſpoken with Sir William [4] Chamberlayn, and with his wife, and he thinketh

of towchyg my Lord of Bedford than ony man kowd do yt leveyth at thys day," if the account given of him in Blomfield's Hiſtory of Norfolk, did not ſay that his Will was proved in 1462.—The date however may poſſibly be there miſtaken. He married Anne, the Daughter and Heir of Sir Robert de Herling, Knight, and lies buried with her, under an arched Monument, in the Chancel of Herling Church.—I do not find that he left any Children.

now aftyr yowyr intent ſo y^t^ they be pleſantly intretyd the p^r^ſon told me y^t^ he wyſt well y^t^ Syr Wyll'm Chambyrleyn cowd do more eſe in ſwyche maty's as ye wrot of towchȳg my lord of [5] Bedford than ony man kowd do y^t^ leveyth at thys day Alſo he told me y^t^ he felt by hem y^t^ they wold owe yow ryth good wyll ſo y^t^ ye wold owe hem good wyll the p^r^ſon hopyth v^r^ily to make yow Acordyd when he Comyth to london It' my brodyr and Playt^r^ wer w^t^ [6] Calthorp to inquer of the mat^r^ y^t^ ye wrot to me of What Anſwer he gave hem they ſchall tell yow I ſent the [7] p^r^ſon of Heylyſdon to [8] Gurnay to ſpek to hym of the ſame mat^r^ and he ſeyth feythefully ther was no ſwyche thyng deſyiryd of hym and thow it had be deſyiryd he wold nowthȳr a ſeyd nor done a yens yow he ſeyd he had ev^r^ fownde you lovyng and feythfull to hym and ſo he ſeyd he wold be to yow to hys power and deſyirȳg me y^t^ I wold not thynk hym the Contrary as for Iohn Gros he is at Sole ther for he myth not be ſpok^e^ w^t^ I p'y yow y^t^ ye wole ſend me word whedyr ye wole y^t^ I ſchall remeve frome hens for it begynyth to wax a cold abydyng her Syr Thom's Howys and Iohn Rus ſchall make an end of All thyngys aftyr yowyr intent as myche as they Can do ther in y^is^ wek and he p^r^poſyth to come forward to yow on y^e^ monday next aftyr ſeynt leonardys day my brodyr and Playt^r^ ſchold a be w^t^ yow er thys tym but y^t^ they wold a byd tyl thys day wer paſt be

[5] John, Duke of Bedford, Regent of France, died at Paris in 1435.

[6] Q.? If Sir William Calthorpe, Knight, High Sheriff of Norfolk, &c. in 1464, and who died very old, in 1494.

cauſe.

that they will do well enough after your intent, ſo that they be pleaſantly intreated; and the Parſon told me that he wiſt well, that Sir William Chamberlayn could do more eaſe in ſuch matters as ye wrote of touching my Lord of [5] Bedford, than any man could do that liveth at this day; alſo he told me that he felt by them that they would owe you right good will, ſo that ye would owe them good will; the Parſon hopeth verily to make you accorded when he cometh to London.

Item, my brother and Playters were with [6] Calthorpe to enquire of the matter that ye wrote to me of, what anſwer he gave them, they ſhall tell you; I ſent the [7] Parſon of Helleſdon to [8] Gurney to ſpeak to him of the ſame matter, and he ſaith faithfully there was no ſuch thing deſired of him, and though he had been deſired, he would neither have ſaid nor done againſt you; he ſaid he had ever found you loving and faithful to him, and ſo he ſaid he would be to you to his power, and deſiring me that I would not think him the contrary.

As for John Gros he is at Sloley, therefore he might not be ſpoken with.

I pray you that ye will ſend me word whether ye will that I ſhall remove from hence, for it beginneth to wax a cold abiding here. Sir Thomas Howes and John Ruſs ſhall make an end of all things after your intent, as much as they can do therein this week, and he propoſeth to come forwards to you on the Monday next after St. Leonard's day.

My Brother and Playters ſhould have been with you ere this time, but that they would abide till this day were paſt, becauſe

[7] Thomas Hert, was inſtituted to the Rectory of Helleſdon in 1448.

[8] Thomas Gurney, of Norwich, Eſq. died in 1471.

of

cauſe of the ſchyer I ſpok to my brodyr Wyll'm as ye bad me and he told me ſo god hym help y^t he hyryd ij horſe ij dayis be for y^t ye redyn y^t he myth a ryde forthe w^t yow and be cauſe y^t ye ſpak not to hym to ryde w^t yow he ſeyd y^t he woud ye wold [9] have had hym w^t yow. [10] Thom's Faſtolfys modyr was her on y^e next day aftyr ye wer redyn to have ſpoke w^t yow for hyr ſone He ſche p'yith yow at the rev^rens of God y^t ye wole be hys good maſtyr and to help hym in hys ryth y^t he may have hom hys lyvelod owt of ther handys y^t have had it in hys nownage ſche ſeyth y^t they wold mak hym a yer yonger than he is but ſche ſeyth y^t he is more thane xxj and upon y^t ſche dare takc ano the and the blyſſyd trynyte have yow in hys kep$\bar{y}$g and ſend yow good Sped in all yowyr maty's and ſend y^e vyctary of All yowyr Enmyis Wretyn in haſt on [11] Sowlemas daye.

By yowyrs

[12] M. P.

11 ¾ by 12 ½.

Paper Mark,
A Flower.
Pl. xxi. N° 3.

9 The word *not* ſeems here to have been omitted in the Original Letter.

10 I am not certain in what degree of relationſhip this Thomas Faſtolf ſtood to Sir John Faſtolf; he was I believe a Couſin, and a Suffolk branch of the Faſtolf Family, as a Thomas Faſtolf reſided near Ipſwich, in 1474. See Letter LV. Vol. III. p. 225.

LET-

of the Shire. I ſpoke to my Brother William as ye bad me, and he told me, ſo God him help, that he hired two horſes two days before that ye rode, that he might have ridden forth with you; and becauſe that ye ſpoke not to him to ride with you, he ſaid that he wend ye would [9] have had him with you.

[10] Thomas Faſtolf's Mother was here on the next day after ye were ridden, to have ſpoken with you for her Son, he (*and*) ſhe prayeth you at the reverence of God, that ye will be his good Maſter, and to help him in his right, that he may have home his livelihood out of their hands that have had it in his nonage; ſhe ſaith that they would make him a year younger than he is, but ſhe ſaith that he is more than twenty-one, and upon that ſhe dare take an oath.

And the bleſſed Trinity have you in his keeping, and ſend you good ſpeed in all your matters, and ſend ye victory of all your Enemies. Written in haſte, on [11] Soulmas-day.

By yours

[12] MARGARET PASTON.

Soulmas-day,
2d of November, 1465.
5 E. IV.

We ſee here the iniquitous proceedings of thoſe who got the Wardſhip of Minors into their hands, by endeavouring to make their Wards younger, that they might keep longer poſſeſſion of their property.

[11] All-Souls, otherwiſe Soulmas-day, 2d of November.

[12] Autograph. Pl. II. N° 25. Seal. Pl. XIV. N° 4.

LET-

LETTER LX.

To my Worchipful
Cosyn Iohn Paston.

RYGTH Worchipful Cosyn I comaunde me to yow And forasmoch as y' was a child ded at Asteles and on other lik to be ded in the same place What tyme y^{t} I rode oute aboute my litil livelod my lady and I bothe thoughte pite on my mastres yo^{r} wif to se her abide y' and desirid here to com to my pore hous on to soch tyme as ye shuld a be othirwise avised wyche if it plese yow I am right Wel apaied Sythen I undirstande be my lady y^{t} ye desire to knowe whedyr y^{t} I shulde abide her stille or nowe as to y^{t} I have non other place y^{t} I wold abide at and my lady seith how she is avised to ende hir lif here Also she seith how ye desire to have a stabil w^{t} inne my plas and as to y^{t} afeith S^{r} I have none but y^{t} must nedis s^{r}ve for my wode as for a chambre ye shal have on for yo^{r} men al redy and as touching a stabil S^{r} Iohn Sp'ham and I have gote yow on y' yo^{r} hors stode the last tyme ye were in this town and an hows to ley Jnne hey

John Wymondham, Esq. the writer of this Letter, married Margery, the Daughter of Sir Robert Clifton, Knight, of Denver, in Norfolk, and Widow of Sir Edward Hastings, of Elsing, Knight; he therefore calls her "My Lady." He died in 1475.

He purchased the Manor and Estate at Felbrigg, of the Trustees of Sir Simon Felbrigg, where he had resided; but once in his absence Sir John Felbrigg made a forceable entry, and dragging out his Lady by the hair of her head, (who had locked herself up in a Chamber to keep possession), got into possession, and retained it till Wymondham obtained the King's order to Thomas Montgomery, Esq. High Sheriff of the County, to put him again into possession. The dispute was then settled with Sir John Felbrigg, and upon Wymondham's paying to him 200 Marks (133*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*) he released all claims, &c.

and

LETTER LX.

To my worſhipful Couſin, John Paſton.

RIGHT worſhipful Couſin, I commend me to you, and for as much as there was a child dead at Aſtley's, and another like to be dead in the ſame place, what time that I rode out about my little livelihood, my Lady and I both thought pity on my miſtreſs your wife to ſee her abide there, and deſired her to come to my poor houſe unto ſuch time as ye ſhould a be (*have been*) otherwiſe aviſed *(provided) with* which if it pleaſe you I am right well apayed (*contented*).

Sythen (*ſince*) I underſtand by my Lady that ye deſire to know whether that I ſhould abide here ſtill or not; as to that, I have none other place that I would abide at; and my Lady ſaith how ſhe is adviſed to end her life here; alſo ſhe ſaith how ye deſire to have a Stable within my place; and as to that, a faith Sir, I have none, but that muſt needs ſerve for my wood; as for a Chamber ye ſhall have one for your men all ready; and as touching a ſtable Sir John Sparham and I have gotten you one there, (*where*) your horſe ſtood the laſt time ye were in this town,

This Letter ſeems to have been written during the time that he was diſpoſſeſſed of Felbrigg, and which muſt have been either before the year 1461 or 1466, thoſe being the years in which Sir Thomas Montgomery was Sheriff of Norfolk, and as J. Paſton at this time ſeems to have been under misfortunes, it was probably near the latter year. I have therefore ventured, though doubtfully, to date the Letter in 1465.

Autograph. Pl. XXIV. N° 7.

This Letter is curious, as it acquaints us with the ordinary and plain manners of the time.

and ſtraw and coſt yow not but making of a rak and a mageo^{r} and more to yo^{r} eaſe y' than here And yf ye wyl y^{t} it be made redy for yow ſend werd be the bring^{r} of this lett^{r} And Coſyn as towching to paiment I can not ſey how ye ſhal be pleaſid w^{t} my pore fare but aftir y^{t} ye arn com home and arn aqweintid y' wyth we ſhal ſo acorde as ſhal be pleſir to us bothe W^{t} the g'ce of god Which have in his bliſſid gov^{r}unce and ſend yow yo^{r} mod'is bliſſing Wreten at Norwich on Seint Martyn is even.

Yo^{r} poer Coſyn and ffrend

J. Wymondham.

And how y^{t} ev^{r} ye do hold up yo^{r} manſhip.

8 ½ by 6 ¼.
Paper Mark,
Part of a Bull.
Pl. xxvii. N° 14.

LETTER LXJ.

To my Coſyn Paſton be thys lett^{r} delyv'd yn haſte.

RYGHT reverent And Worſhyppeful Coſyn y Comawnd me on to you deſyryng to her off yo^{r} welfare the whyche Almyghty Ihu p^{r}ſerve to hys pleſawns And to yo^{r} own herts deſyres

and an houſe to lay in hay and ſtraw, and coſt you not (*nothing*) but making of a rack and a manger, and more to your eaſe there than here; and if ye will that it be made ready for you, ſend word by the bringer of this Letter. And, Couſin, as touching to payment, I cannot ſay how ye ſhall be pleaſed with my poor fare, but after that ye are come home and are acquainted therewith, we ſhall ſo accord as ſhall be pleaſure to us both, with the grace of God, which have *(you)* in his bleſſed governance, and ſend you your Mother's bleſſing.

Written at Norwich, on Saint Martin's Even.

Your poor Couſin and Friend

JOHN WYMONDHAM.

And how that ever ye do,
hold up your manſhip.

Norwich,
10th of November, 1465.
5 E. IV.

LETTER LXI.

To my Couſin Paſton, be this delivered in haſte.

RIGHT reverend and worſhipful Couſin, I commend me unto you, deſiring to hear of your welfare, the which the Almighty Jeſu preſerve to his pleaſaunce *(pleaſure)* and to your

deſyres forthermore and yff y^{t} pleaſe yo^{r} gentylneſſe to be my truſty frend as my Ful truſte ys yn you as for ſwyche materys as y^{e} bryng^{r} off y^{is} l're ſhall enforme you And bethe ffectualy my Frend And brȳge y^{t} Abowte And by my trowy^{e} y ſhall geve you An C marke for yo^{r} labowr ffor yn trowthe y am aferde y^{t} Roberd Radclyff hathe deſeyvyd me for he laboryd to me dayly by my lords Comawndemēt off Warwyk And bro'ght w^{t} hym yllyngworthe And od^{r} off my lords Cownſel And ſeen my evydens And ſo we ſtoden uppon Apoyntemēt and y for to have had An unſwere ſent to Felbrygge Halle and yff ne had be for ffendyng off my lords lordſchyppe y myght have had my money for my Ryght or y cam owt off london as my man ſchall enforme you ffor yn trowy^{e} y muſte now make An ſchiffte for Wyndham hay^{e} ſold hys Ryght and rathere yan yt ſchuld go y^{t} way to y had lev^{r} my lord had yt ij C marke w^{t} yn y^{e} pryſe y^{t} y graw't yt laſte and y'for y be ſcheche you to labowr to my lord y^{t} y may have An unſwer And y^{ies} many [1] Townes longry^{e} y'to Felbrygge Aylinton Ronton Colby Bannyngham Ingworthe Styrſton beſyde hamelets· no mor to you at y^{is} tyme but y^{e} holy t'nyte have you yn his kepyng Wryten at Felbrygg y^{e} monday affor Seynt. Augnet's day.

By yo^{r} Coſyn

John ffelbrygge.

Paper Mark,
The Letter C.
Pl. xxvii. N° 8.

I have given this Letter to ſhew the eſtimation that John Paſton's aſſiſtance was held in; for the preſent of an hundred Marks to ſecure his friendſhip, was a very large ſum in theſe days.

From this Letter we are likewiſe acquainted with the diſputes ſubſiſting between Felbrigg and Wymondham.

LET.

own heart's deſires; furthermore, and if it pleaſe your gentleneſs to be my truſty Friend, as my full truſt is in you, as for ſuch matters as the bringer of this Letter ſhall inform you, and be effectually my Friend, and bring it about, and by my truth I ſhall give you an hundred Marks (66*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*) for your labour; for in truth I am afraid that Robert Radcliff hath deceived me, for he laboured to me daily by my Lord's commandment of Warwick, and brought with him Illingworth, and other of my Lord's Counſel, and ſaw my Evidences; and ſo we ſtood upon appointment, and I for to have had an anſwer ſent to Felbrigg Hall, and if ne had been (*if it had not been*) for defending of my Lord's Lordſhip, I might have had my money for my right, ere I came out of London, as my man ſhall inform you; for in truth I muſt now make a ſhift, for Wymondham hath ſold his right, and rather than it ſhould go that way too, I had lever (*rather*) my lord had it two hundred Marks (133*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*) within the price that I granted it laſt, and therefore I beſeech you to labour to my Lord that I may have an anſwer. And theſe many [1] Towns belongeth thereto, (*namely*) Felbrigg, Aylmerton, Runton, Colby, Banningham, Ingworth, Sturſton, beſides Hamlets. No more to you at this time, but the Holy Trinity have you in his keeping. Written at Felbrigg, the Monday after Saint Agnes's day.

By your Couſin

JOHN FELBRIGGE.

Felbrigg, Monday, 27th of January,
1465. 5 E. IV.

The date cannot be clearly aſcertained, but I have placed it in the January after J. Wymondham's Letter, but whether rightly or not I cannot ſay.

Autograph. Pl. XXIV. N° 8.

[1] I ſuppoſe this refers to manerial rights extending into theſe Towns, &c.

LET-

LETTER LVJ.

Un to the ryght Wyrſhypfull
Mayſter S' Iohn Paſton Knygt
be thys lett' delyu'yd.

RYGHT wyrſhypfull and my eſpecyall gode Mayſter I recomaund me unto your gode mayſterſhyp letyng you wyte that the bero' herof told me that ye had grete mervyll that J ſend to you no word ne lett' of awnſwer of the letters that ye had ſend to me to london, as for on letter ye ſend to me by Rychard Playtorys man and therof J ſend you an awnſwer in a letter by a man of the P'or of Bromholm and as for other letters ther com no more to me but that on. Jt'm Mayſter Flemmyng lokyth dayly for hys hors and at eu' tyme that J mete w't hym he aſkyth of me when hys hors ſhuld Com and when I here any word from you wherfore J p'y you ſend me word in a letter how he ſhall be awnſwerd and yf the hors ſhall Com lette me knowe when for and he had not truſtyd theruppon he wold haue p'veyd hym in a nother place &c. Jt'm Iohn Oter ys not yet payd but as I ſuppoſe it ſhall not be long to tyll he haue it for he hath ſpoken to my mayſt' your fader a yer therfor and as for Gylmyn he hath not ſpoken to my mayſt' as yet &c. Jt'm I truſte he wylbe your gode Fader for Iohn Say hath told hym

LETTER LXII.

Unto the right worſhipful Maſter, Sir John Paſton, Knight, be this Letter delivered.

RIGHT worſhipful and my eſpecial good Maſter, I recommend me unto your good maſterſhip, letting you weet that the bearer hereof told me that ye had great marvel that I ſend to you no word nor letter of anſwer of the letters that ye had ſent to me to London; as for one letter ye ſent to me by Richard Playters' man, and thereof I ſent you an anſwer in a letter by a man of the Prior of Bromholm, and as for other letters there came no more to me but that one.

Item, Maſter Flemming looketh daily for his horſe, and at every time that I meet with him he aſketh of me, when his horſe ſhould come, and when I heard any word from you; wherefore I pray you ſend me word in a letter how he ſhall be anſwered, and if the horſe ſhall come let me know when, for and *(if)* he had not truſted thereupon, he would have purveyed him in another place, &c.

Item, John Oter is not yet paid, but as I ſuppoſe it ſhall not be long to till he have it, for he hath ſpoken to my Maſter your Father again therefore; and as for Gilmyn he hath not ſpoken to my Maſter as yet, &c.

Item, I truſt he will be your good Father, for John Say hath told

hym playnly of hys demenȳg ayenſt you and told hym that he had the laſſe favo^{r} for your ſake &c. It'm the Erle of Arundell ys [1] Son hath weddyd the Quyne ys ſuſter It'm the lord louell ys [2] Son hath weddyd my lady Fytzhugh ys doghter &c. It'm Ienney deſyryth a trety w^{t} my mayſt^{r} and ſpake to my mayſter therof hym ſylf in Weſtm^{r} hall Jt'm all felaws in the Kyngs hows fareid well and wold haue you ther No more to you at thys tyme but the holy Trynyte haue you kepyng Wryten at london the Monday next after Seynt Volentyn.

Your ſ^{r}vant

[3] John Wykys.

11 ½ by 7 ¾.

Paper Mark, a radiated Star, conſiſting of nine large and nine ſmall rays, having in the centre within a border the Letters I. H. S. Pl. xxvi. N° 4.

Though this Letter contains nothing very curious, yet the eaſy ſtyle of it, and the news of the day which it announces to Sir John Paſton, make it worthy the Reader's notice. His Father's unkindneſs is likewiſe juſt hinted.

[1] Thomas Fitz Alan, Lord Maltravers, eldeſt Son of William Fitz Alan, Earl of Arundel, married Margaret, ſecond Daughter of Richard Widville, Earl Rivers, and Siſter to Elizabeth, Queen of Edward IV.

He ſucceeded his Father as Earl of Arundel, in 1487. 3 H. VII. and died in 1524. 16 H. VIII.

L C T.

told him plainly of his demeaning againſt you, and told him that he had the leſs favour for your ſake, &c.

Item, the Earl of Arundel's [1] Son hath wedded the Queen's Siſter.

Item, the Lord Lovel's [2] Son hath wedded my Lady Fitzhugh's Daughter, &c.

Item, Jenney deſireth a treaty with my Maſter, and ſpake to my Maſter thereof himſelf in Weſtminſter-Hall.

Item, all fellows in the King's houſe fared well, and would have you there. No more to you at this time, but the Holy Trinity have you (*in*) keeping. Written at London, the Monday next after Saint Valentine.

Your Servant

[3] JOHN WYKYS.

London,
Monday 17th of February,
1465. 5 E. IV.

[2] Francis Lovel, Son and heir to John, Lord Lovel, married Anne, Daughter of Henry, Lord Fitz Hugh. He very ſoon ſucceeded his Father as Lord Lovel, and was afterwards created Viſcount Lovel.

This nobleman was Lord Chamberlain to Richard III. whom he attended at Boſworth Field, and was killed at the battle of Stoke, in 1487, 2 H. VII.

[3] Autograph. Pl. v. N° 16. This Writer had an appointment in the Houſehold of Edward IV. and it may be ſuppoſed, from the concluding part of this Letter, that Sir John Paſton belonged to it likewiſe.

LETTER LIII.

To oure right truſty and entierly welbelovid S'vaunt John Paſton th'elder.

The Duc of Norff.

RIGHT truſty and entierly welbelovid ſ'vaunt We grete you hertily well And ſpecially praying you that ye will be with us at Framlyngh'm on Sonday next comyng that we may comon w^t^ you there and have youre ſadde adviſe in ſuche matiers as concernyth gretly to oure weel whiche ſhall be myneſtred unto you at youre comyng prayng you that ye fayle not herof as our ſpeciall truſt is in you And our lord p'ſ've you in his keping Written at Framlyngh'm the xxxj Day of Auguſt.

Norff.

11 ½ by 6 ¾.

The Seal on red Wax, and very perfect. Impreſſion a Wheat Sheaf, &c. The Motto imperfect. The Seal has a braid of twine around it. Pl. XXVIII. N^o^ 5.

We here find that John Paſton was one of the Counſel to John Mowbray, the laſt Duke of Norfolk of that name; and that regular Summonſes were ſent to thoſe in this confidential ſtation, when any matters of importance aroſe, on which their deliberations and

LETTER LXIII.

To our right truſty and entirely well beloved Servant John Paſton, the elder.

The Duke of Norfolk.

RIGHT truſty and entirely well beloved Servant, we greet you heartily well, and ſpecially praying you that ye will be with us at Framlingham on Sunday next coming, that we may commune with you there, and have your ſad *(ſerious)* advice in ſuch matters as concerneth greatly to our weal, which ſhall be miniſtred (*made known*) unto you at your coming.

Praying you that ye fail not hereof, as our ſpecial truſt is in you; and our Lord preſerve you in his keeping.

Written at Framlingham, the 31ſt day of Auguſt.

NORFOLK.

Framlingham,
31ſt of Auguſt,
before 1466.
6 E. IV.

and advice became neceſſary; this Summons appears to be on ſome very material buſineſs, which moſt probably required ſecreſy, as the purport of it was not communicated, but deferred till he ſhould be arrived at Framlingham.

Autograph. Pl. IV. N° 3.

LETTER LXII.

To my revrent and moſt be truſted
maiſtrer Iohn Paſton Eſquyer Duelling
in the Inner Temple be this delyvred.

RYGHT reverent and moſt be truſted maiſtr I recōmaunde me in the moſt lowly wiſe un to yor good and prevyd mayſterchep and deſiring many days to here of yor welfare whiche I be ſeche god encreſe un to his pleſauns and un to the p'ſp'ite and welfare of your p'ſon and of all youres And I be ſeche you of the good cōtynuaunce of your mayſterchep at diu'ſes tymes befor this writing ſhewed un to me And Sr ther is non man a lyve that I truſt more to than I doo un to you And I am yor bedman and ſo ſhall remayn be the grace of god all the days of myn liff And Sr I ſuppoſe I ſhall nevr ſee you no more nor non of myn frendes Whiche is to me the gretteſt lamentacon that myght come un to myn herte For Sr by the grace of god I ſhall go to Rome and in to oder holy places to ſpende myn dayes of this p'ſent liff in the ſrviſe of god For I hadde lever liffe in gret tribulacon in the ſrvice of god in this p'ſent liff than for to

This and the following Letter were written by Roger Taverham, a deſcendant of a Family of that name, long before this time ſeated at Taverham, in Norfolk. He was now reſident at Saliſbury, and was going on a pilgrimage to Rome and other holy places, with an intention never to return to England. The ſtyle and ſpelling of the Letters come near to thoſe of modern times.

The methods then in uſe by which property was conveyed are here fully related, and are matters worthy attention of the Lawyer and Antiquary, and on that account I have thought the contents of theſe Letters worth preſerving.

folowe

LETTER LXIV.

To my reverend and moſt betruſted Maſter, John Paſton, Eſquire, dwelling in the Inner Temple, be this delivered.

RIGHT reverend and moſt betruſted Maſter, I recommend me in the moſt lowly wiſe unto your good and proved maſterſhip, and deſiring many days to hear of your welfare, which I beſeech God increaſe unto his pleaſaunce *(pleaſure)* and unto the proſperity and welfare of your perſon, and of all yours. And I beſeech you of the good continuance of your maſterſhip at divers times before this writing ſhewed unto me; and, Sir, there is none man alive that I truſt more to than I do unto you, and I am your Beadſman, and ſo ſhall remain, by the grace of God, all the days of mine life; and, Sir, I ſuppoſe I ſhall never ſee you no more, nor none of mine friends, which is to me the greateſt lamentation that might come unto mine heart, for, Sir, by the grace of God I ſhall go to Rome, and into other holy places to ſpend mine days of this preſent life in the ſervice of God; for I had lever (*rather*) live in great tribulation in the ſervice of God in this preſent life, than for to follow the wretchedneſs of this world.

The Letters ſeem written from the heart, and expreſs the gratitude of one who in his youth had received countenance and protection from the perſon to whom he now wiſhes to return the obligations he thought due to him.

It does not appear with what Lord, he now dwelt at Saliſbury.

Autograph. Pl. xxv. N° 19. Seal imperfect.

And

folowe the wretchedneſſe of this worlde And ſyr of on thing I be ſeche ſpecially yo^{r} good mayſte^{r}chep that ye wolle ſhew yo^{r} good maiſt^{r}ſhep un to my fader in tyme of his nede And that ye wolle recomaunde me in the moſt lowly wiſe w^{t} all reve^{r}ence un to his good fader hode be ſechyng hym that he wole yeff me ev^{r}y d ıy during the dayes of his liff his paternall bliſſing And I haue m^{r}vayle ſan that I have writen ſo many letters un to hym be for this tyme that I hadde nev^{r} non letter Ageyn Whiche is to me the gretteſt lamentacon that ev^{r} come to my hert And nowe knowing that I ſhall nev^{r} ſee hym more nor you nor non other of my frendes m^{r}vayle ye not thow ſorowe is imprended in myn hert but rev^{r}ent maiſter myn ſinguler truſt remayneth nowe in yo^{r} p^{r}ſon for S^{r} And it pleaſe you I moſt nedes write un to your good maiſt^{r}chep in the whiche my moſt truſt remayneth for Syr And it pleaſe you as for myn inheritaunce And other things whiche ſhulde come to me after the deth of my fader whoes liff god preſerve to his long pleſauns knowing that I ſhall nev^{r} come ther I hadde lev' that by yo^{r} good A viſe that ye wolde take it unto you for I hadde lev' that ye hadde it rather than any p^{r}ſon in the worlde during my liff w^{t} all the p'fites ther of And if that ye wole make as good evidences for you in that partye as ye can And I ſhall a ſeale hem and as you ſemeth beſt and in the moſt ſecret wiſe rewle you in this mater And S^{r} I be ſeche you to recomaunde me in the moſt lowly wiſe to myn rev^{r}ent maiſt^{r} Will'm Lumno^{r} ſeyeng hym that I am and ſhall be his p^{r}petuall bedman And as ye yenk beſt ye may telle hym of all theſe maters And ſyr I be ſeche you to recomaunde me w^{t} all

And, Sir, of one thing I beſeech ſpecially your good maſterſhip, that ye will ſhew your good maſterſhip unto my Father in time of his need, and that ye will recommend me in the moſt lowly wiſe with all reverence unto his good fatherhood, beſeeching him that he will give me every day, during the days of his life, his paternal bleſſing; and I have marvel ſan *(ſince)* that I have written ſo many letters unto him before this time, that I had never none letter again, which is to me the greateſt lamentation that ever came to my heart; and now knowing that I ſhall never ſee him more, nor you, nor none other of mine Friends, marvel ye not that ſorrow is imprended (*impreſſed*) in mine heart.

But reverend Maſter mine ſingular truſt remaineth now in your perſon, for Sir, and (*if*) it pleaſe you, I muſt needs write unto your good maſterſhip, in the which my moſt truſt remaineth; for, Sir, and (*if*) it pleaſe you as for mine inheritance and other things which ſhould come to me after the death of my Father, whoſe life God preſerve to his long pleaſaunce! knowing that I ſhall never come there, I had lever that by your good advice that ye would take it unto you, for I had lever that ye had it rather than any perſon in the world, during my life, with all the profits thereof, and if that ye will make as good evidences (*title*) for you in that part as ye can, and I ſhall ſeal them; and as to you ſeemeth beſt, and in the moſt ſecret wiſe, rule you in this matter.

And, Sir, I beſeech you to recommend me in the moſt lowly wiſe to mine reverend Maſter William Lumnor, ſaying him (*telling him*) that I am and ſhall be his perpetual Beadſman, and as ye think beſt ye may tell him of all theſe matters; and, Sir, I beſeech you

rev^rence un to my maſteras yo^r wiff And to all other mayſters And frendes ther And ſir that ye wolle thank the bringer of this letter whiche hathe ben in my gret tribulacon my good frende And Sir whan ye ſpeke w^t my fader recomaunde me un to hym w^t all rev^rence And ſey un to hym I ſhall ſend hym a letter in all haſt poſſible and ſyr as for this mater demene you as ye wolle And I ſhall doo yo^r pleſauns as moche as in me is And rev^rent maiſt^r remitte me ſūme letter by the bringer her of of all thes maters for he duellith w^t my lorde and he is ryght moche be truſted for I knowe wele he wole yef a tendaunce un to you for to have ſūme letter from you For ſyr jt ſhall not be longe or that I go to Rome by the Grace of God And as ſone as I have a letter from you at this tyme I ſhall ſend you a noder Ageyn No more at this tyme but the holy Trinite haue you in his bliſſed keping Wreten at Sar' the monday after mydſomer day and lete theſe maters be kept ſecrete by yo^r beſt A viſe.

Be your poure ſ^rvūt

Roger Taverham.

12 by 8 ½.

you to recommend me with all reverence unto my Miſtreſs your wife, and to all other Maſters and Friends there; and for that ye will thank the bringer of this Letter which hath been, in my great tribulation, my good Friend; and, Sir, when ye ſpeak with my Father recommend me unto him with all reverence, and ſay unto him, I ſhall ſend him a Letter in all haſte poſſible.

And, Sir, as for this matter demean you as ye will, and I ſhall do your pleaſaunce as much as in me is; and, reverend Maſter, remit me ſome Letter by the bringer hereof of all theſe matters, for he dwelleth with my Lord, and he is right much betruſted, for I know well he will give attendance unto you, for to have ſome Letter from you; for, Sir, it ſhall not be long ere that I go to Rome by the grace of God; and as ſoon as I have a Letter from you at this time, I ſhall ſend you another again.

No more at this time, but the Holy Trinity have you in his bleſſed keeping. Written at Sarum, the Monday after Midſummer day. And let theſe matters be kept ſecret by your beſt advice.

By your poor Servant

ROGER TAVERHAM.

Saliſbury, Monday, June, before 1466. 6 E. IV.

LETTER LXII.

To my Right Wourſhipful
maiſter Iohn Paſton Eſquyer
be this letter delyvred.

RIGHT Wourſhipful maiſter I Recōmaunde me un to your maiſterſhip and I thank yo^{r} maiſterſhip that hit pleaſed yo^{r} maiſterſhip to ſende me wourde a yen of my lett^{r} that I ſende you by the bryng^{r} herof S^{r} as I am enfourmed ye ſent me Wourde how that my fader was dede long tyme paſſed and alſo ye deſired to knowe my titylle of Ryght S^{r} I am very heyre by the diſceas of my fader to a place called Keſwyk in Tauerham with all the apportenauncez and that comyth by enherytaunce and diſcente to me for I am the helder and heyr and though my lorde [1] Cromwell hath taken Thomas Tav'ham my yonger brother as warde for the ſame enheritaunce that maketh no mater to me in ſo moche Iam helder brether wher for I beſeche you to ſende me a letter of attournay made to you in my name in the ſtrengeſt wiſe that ye can for to entre in to the ſame lyvelode and I ſhal aſſeal that and than I ſhal do my ſ^{r}vice and feaute to the ſeid lorde Cromwell in all thing as by the tenure of the ſame lyvelode of olde tyme aught to be done and herin I kno well the king ſhal cauſe my lorde Cromwel to do me bothe lawe and right and alſo my lorde Chaunceler w^{t} oder lordes diu^{r}ſe ſhal do the ſame and S^{r} I beſeche your maiſterſhip to do and to take poſſeſſion in the ſaide place w^{t} the apportenaunce in ſhort tyme for loſyng of

[1] Humphry Bourchier, Lord Cromwell, ſo created in 1461.

the

LETTER LXV.

To my right worſhipful Maſter, John Paſton, Eſquire, be this Letter delivered.

RIGHT worſhipful Maſter, I recommend me unto your maſterſhip, and I thank your maſterſhip that it pleaſed your maſterſhip to ſend me word again of my Letter that I ſent you by the bringer hereof; Sir, as I am informed ye ſent me word how that my Father was dead long time paſſed, and alſo ye deſired to know my title of right; Sir, I am very heir by the deceaſe of my Father to a place called Keſwick, in Taverham, with all the appurtenances, and that cometh by inheritance and deſcent to me, for I am the elder, and heir; and though my Lord [1] Cromwell hath taken Thomas Taverham, my younger brother, as ward for the ſame inheritance, that maketh no matter to me, inſomuch *(as)* I am elder brother; wherefore I beſeech you to ſend me a Letter of Attorney, made to you in my name, in the ſtrongeſt wiſe that ye can, for to enter into the ſame livelihood, and I ſhall aſſeal that, and then I ſhall do my ſervice and fealty to the ſaid Lord Cromwell in all things, as by the tenure of the ſame livelihood of old time, ought to be done; and herein I know well the King ſhall cauſe my Lord Cromwell to do me both law and right; and alſo my Lord Chancellor, with other Lords divers, ſhall do the ſame; and, Sir, I beſeech your maſterſhip to do, and to take poſſeſſion in the ſaid place with the appurtenances in ſhort time, for loſing of the rent this year paſſed.

the rent this yer paſſed And S^r as for the place of Attylbrigge that my moder in lawe now duellith in S^r yo^r maiſterſhep ſhal right not attempte ther now in for my lorde of [2] Warwik hath ſeen how the ſame place was yeven me by teſtament by S^r Roger Dallyng after the diſeaſe of my fader whiche is redy to be ſhewed and therupon my lorde of Warwik hath comaunded certeyn gentilmen to entre in the ſame place and yo^r maiſterſhip hadde be moved ther in or this but for cauſe that ye love wel [3] Lumpno^r and that my moder in lawe is his ſiſter but I knowe wel hit woul coſt CCC li. but that ſhe ſhal be diſpoſſedded of that place in ſhort tyme And maiſt^r how ye woul be rewled in the ſeid place of Keſwyk I be ſeche you to ſende me wourde as my ſengler trnſt is in you for and ye woulde not take poſſeſſion in the ſaide place my lorde [4] Wenlok woulde haue that ful fayne for all the Contrary knowith while that while I leve I am heyr and non other and therfor I beſeche you in all haſt ſende me wourde by the bryngger herof in haſt q' mora trahit p^ric'l'm and S^r I would Come ſpeke w^t you I am ſeke and may not goo but telle the bryngg^r heroff all yo^r entent for my liff duryng I hadde lever that ye hadde that place for j^d than a nother man thow he woulde yeff me meche mony for yo^r maiſterſhip y' ſhewed to me in my yong Age and God kepe you, &c.

Yo^r Chapeleyn

[5] Roger Taverham.

12 by 7 ¾.

Seal, a Head eraſed on an Helmet, having the Letter I on one ſide and B on the other. Pl. XXVIII. N° 6.

[2] Richard Neville, Earl of Warwick.

[3] William Lumner, of Mannington, in Norfolk.

And Sir, as for the place of Attlebrigg, that my Mother in law now dwelleth in, Sir, your maſterſhip ſhall right not attempt there now in, for my Lord of [2] Warwick hath ſeen how the ſame place was given me by teſtament, by Sir Roger Dalling, after the deceaſe of my Father, which is ready to be ſhewed; and thereupon my Lord of Warwick hath commanded certain gentlemen to enter in the ſame place, and your maſterſhip had been moved therein ere this, but for cauſe that ye love well [3] Lumnor, and that my Mother-in-law is his ſiſter; but I know well that will coſt three hundred pounds, but that ſhe ſhall be diſpoſſeſſed of that place in ſhort time; and, Maſter, how ye will be ruled in the ſaid place of Keſwick I beſeech you to ſend me word, as my ſingular truſt is in you, for and *(if)* ye would not take poſſeſſion in the ſaid place, my Lord [4] Wenlock would have that full fain, for all the Country knoweth while that while I live I am heir and none other, and therefore I beſeech you in all haſte ſend me word by the bringer hereof in haſte, quia mora trahit periculum, and, Sir, I would come (*and*) ſpeak with you; I am ſick and may not go; but tell the bringer hereof all your intent, for my life during I had lever (*rather*) that ye had that place for one penny, than another man though he would give me much money, for your maſterſhip ſhewed to me in my young age, and God keep you, &c.

Your Chaplain

[5] ROGER TAVERHAM.

July, before 1466. 6 E. IV.

[4] John Wenlock was created Baron Wenlock, in 1461, by Edward IV. but he afterwards left the York party, and joined that of Lancaſter; he was cleft down with a battle axe by the Duke of Somerſet, for not coming up in time at the battle of Tewkeſbury, in 1471, whereby that battle was loſt.

[5] Autograph. Pl. xxv. N° 19.

LET-

LETTER LXIV.

Be this delyvred to
Maſtyr Iohn Paſton.

I Recomaunde me unto you as unknowyn and as for the wryting I ſend unto you the cauſe why yt was nate endoſſed was for the berer ther of knew yow wel J now And as for youre Coſſyn Mary ſhe ys no longer w^t us as a pon Seynt Mathewys Evyn ſhe departyd from me And went to Awdry Croxeſton And ſhe told me that ye wold pay for her borde ther but on thyng I let you know ſhe hathe demenyd her ful ſymply bothe for youre Worſhip and alſo for her awne ther ys but few w^tin oure plaſſe but they know how yt is w^t her And al by her awne beſſynes of her tung' And I had knowyn as myche at the begynnyng as I have don ſythe I wold not haue delt in the mater nat for xl. pound for I wys ſhe ys no thyng ſo ſadde as I wold ſhe wer No more to you at thys tyme but the holy goſt haue you in his kepyng And ſend you youre hertys eſſe I p'y you hertly y^t I may ſpke w^t you.

B. D. M. S.

11 ½ by 4 ½.
Paper Mark,
Bull's Head and Star.
Pl. VIII. N° 2.

Seal,
A Flower.
Pl. XXVIII. N° 2.

LET-

This appears not to have been the firſt Letter which J. Paſton had received relative to the behaviour of his couſin Mary. It ſeems by it, that ſhe had happened of an accident too common in our age, but which, in the times here treated of, was looked upon as diſgraceful in a high degree, not only to the perſon, but likewiſe to her family and friends. I wiſh the ſhame of it was more attended to now than it is, as that would perhaps prevent the ruin of many young people of both ſexes; and in moſt caſes of this kind, the female,

LETTER LXVI.

Be this delivered to Maſter John Paſton.

I Recommend me unto you as unknown; and as for the writing I ſend unto you, the cauſe why it was not endorſed was, for the bearer thereof knew you well enough, and as for your Couſin Mary ſhe is no longer with us, as upon Saint Matthew's Even ſhe departed from me, and went to Audrey Croxſton; and ſhe told me that ye would pay for her board there; but one thing I let you know, ſhe hath demeaned her full ſimply, both for your worſhip, and alſo for her own; there is but few within our place but they know how it is with her, and all by her own buſineſs of her tongue. And (*if*) I had known as much at the beginning, as I have done ſince, I would not have dealt in the matter not for forty pounds, for I wis ſhe is nothing ſo ſad as I would ſhe were. No more to you at this time, but the Holy Ghoſt have you in his keeping, and ſend you your heart's eaſe; I pray you heartily I may ſpeak with you.

B. D. M. S.

No exact date of the year can be affixed to this Letter, which appears to have been written in September or October, before 1466. 6 E. IV.

female, for the firſt offence, is generally intitled to our pity, however abandoned ſhe may become afterwards. I am ſorry, as an acting Magiſtrate, to ſay, that licentiouſneſs in this reſpect is an increaſing evil, affecting not only the morals of the lower claſſes in an amazing degree, but adding conſiderably to the already enormous burden of the Poor's Rates.

Autograph. Pl. xxv. N° 17.

LET-

LETTER LXVIJ.

To Meſtreſſe Margrete
Paſton be thys delyvryd.

PLEASE it yow to weete yᵗ I ſende yow by Barker the berer heroff iij tracle pottes of Geane as my potecarie ſweryth on to me and mooreovyr that they weer neuʳ ondoo ſyns yᵗ they come from Geane wheroff ye ſhalle take as many as pleaſyth yow neuʳthe leſſe my brother Iohn ſente to me for ij y'for I moſt beſeche yow yᵗ he maye haue at yᵉ leſt on ther is on potte yᵗis morkyn ondre yᵉ bottome ij tymes wᵗ thyes letteris M. P. whyche potte I haue beſt truſte on too and nexte hym to yᵉ wryghe potte and I myſtruſte mooſt yᵉ potte yᵗ hathe a krotte abovyn in the toppe leſſe yᵗ he hathe ben ondoone and alſo the other ij pottys be prentyd wᵗ yᵗ marchauntys marke too tymes on the coueryng and that other pott is butt onys morkyn but wᵗon prente notwᵗſtondyng I hadde lyke othe and promyſe for on as well as for alle.

11 ½ by 11.

I have given this Letter to ſhew the very great repute in which the liquor here mentioned was held at this time, Sir John Paſton's obſervations to prove it genuine manifeſt the eſteem in which it ſtood as a Cordial. Geane, Gin or Geneva, (if that be the thing here meant) is a compound water, procured from the berries of the Juniper, diſtilled with brandy or malt ſpirits, and was for many years drank in improper quantities by the lower order of people in this kingdom, and attended with very pernicious effects; as a Medicine it has now its uſes.

In a Letter which I have examined ſince I copied the above, I find the following order: "I prey yow ſend me by the next man that comyth fro London ij pottys of tryacle of "Ienue, they ſhall coſt xvjᵈ."

LETTER LXVII.

To Miſtreſs Margaret Paſton, be this delivered.

PLEASE it you to weet that I ſend you by Barker the bearer hereof three treacle pots of Geane (*q? Gin or Geneva*), as my Apothecary ſweareth unto me, and moreover that they were never undone ſince they came from Geane (*Geneva*), whereof ye ſhall take as many as pleaſeth you, nevertheleſs my Brother John ſent to me for two, therefore I muſt beſeech you that he may have at the leaſt one; there is one pot that is marked under the bottom two times, with theſe letters M. P. which pot I have beſt truſt unto, and next him to the wryghe (*q? twiſted*) pot, and I miſtruſt moſt the pot that hath a krott (*q? a crack, or piece chipt off*) above on the top, leſt that he hath been undone; and alſo the other two pots be printed with the Merchant's mark two times over the covering, and that other pot is but once marked but with one print, notwithſtanding I had like oath and promiſe for one as well as for all.

JOHN PASTON.

Between 1460 and 1470,
1 and 10 E. IV.

I believe I am miſtaken, therefore, in calling the Medicine mentioned in this Letter Gin or Geneva; it ſeems from this laſt extract to be Treacle of Genoa, a City in Italy, from whence various drugs and medicines are imported.

This Letter has no date, and the ſubſcribing ſignature is torn off; it was, however, written by Sir John Paſton to his Mother, in the reign of Edward IV.

LETTER LXVIII.

To the worſhipful
Sir Iohn Paſton Knyght
be thys delu'yd Jn haſt.

WORSHIPFULL and with all myn hert interly wilbeloved Nevoue I recomaunde me to yow deſyryng to here of yo^r proſp'ite and wilefayr which I pray all mighti god maynteyn and encres to his pleſour and yo^r herts deſir thankyng god of yo^r amendyng and helth forthermore c'tefying yow y^t Sir Rob^t [1] Fenys hath doon grete hurte in y^e lyuelode whiche p'teyned to my [2] huſbond and me in y^e Shire of Kent wherein Will'm Kene and oy^r p^rſones arn enfeffid and gretly troubleth hit and receyneth y^e iſſuez and p'fitez of gret p't of theym and as of my ſeid huſbonds lyuelode aswell in y^e ſame Shire as in oy^r ſhirez beſyde myn Iount' my ſeid huſbond whan he departyd towarde y^e feld of ſaint Albons made and ordeyned his wille y^t I ſhuld haue y^e rewell of all his lyuelode and of Edwarde his ſoon and myn and to take y^e iſſuez and p'fitez of the ſeid lyuelode to y^e fyndyng of his and myn ſeid ſon to paie his dettez and to kepe y^e right and title of y^e ſame lyuelode which I myght nat

I have given this Letter to ſhew the great deſire which the Relations and other connections of a deceaſed man of property, always expreſſed to get poſſeſſion of his eſtates, in prejudice to the minor and widow, and of the ſteps they took to obtain it.

This Letter likewiſe makes us acquainted with the proceſs the Lady wiſhed to purſue, through the means of Sir John Paſton, to regain her property.

[1] This was a knightly Family, of great worth and worſhip, and a branch of it became Barons Dacre, of Gilleſland.

accordyng

LETTER LXVIII.

To the worſhipful Sir John Paſton, Knight, be this delivered in haſte.

WORSHIPFUL and with all mine heart entirely well-beloved Nephew, I recommend me to you, deſiring to hear of your proſperity and welfare, which I pray Almighty God maintain and increaſe to his pleaſure, and your heart's deſire, thanking God of your amending and health. Furthermore certifying you that Sir Robert [1] Fynes hath done great hurt in the livelihood which pertained to my [2] Huſband and me, in the Shire of Kent, wherein William Keene and other perſons are enfeoffed, and greatly troubleth it, and receiveth the iſſues and profits of great part of them, and as of my ſaid Huſband's livelihood, as well in the ſame Shire as in other Shires.

Beſide mine jointure, my ſaid Huſband, when he departed towards the field of Saint Alban's, made and ordained his will, that I ſhould have the rule of all his livelihood, and of Edward his ſon and mine, and to take the iſſues and profits of the ſaid livelihood, to the finding of his and mine ſaid ſon, to pay his debts, and to keep the right and title of the ſame livelihood,

[2] Elizabeth Poynings, the writer of this Letter, and the Daughter of John Paſton, married Robert Poynings, a younger Son of Robert, Lord Poynings, by whom ſhe had her Son Edward here mentioned. He was Lord Deputy of Ireland, and during his adminiſtration in 1494, 10 H. VII. thoſe Statutes called Poynings' Laws were paſſed, by which the power of the Iriſh Parliament was reſtrained, and their Acts ſubjected to the reviſal of the Privy Council of England. He died of a peſtilential Fever, in 1522, 14 H. VIII. aged about 62 years.

Theſe, with other Acts enacting the dependency of Ireland on this kingdom, were repealed in 1785, 25 Geo. III.

accordyng occupie for Sr Edwarde Ponyngs myn ſeid huſbonds brother and ſo ſith myn ſeid huſbonds depʳtyng I aſſigned yt ye ſeid Sr Edwarde for cʳteyn yereez ſhuld haue and take ye reuenuez of yᵉ manˢ of Weſtwode Eſtwell lenelond horſmonden totyndon Eccles Staundon and Combeſden pʳcell of ye ſeid lyuelode which arn clerely yerely worth lxxvj li. xiijˢ iiijᵈ to ye entent yt ye ſeid Sr Edwarde ſhuld paye myn huſbonds dettez for he wold not ſuffer me to be in reſt wᵗout yt he myght haue a rewell in ye lyuelode and after yᵉ ſeid aſſignemēt made ye ſeid Robt Fenes contʳy to trowth and wᵗoute cauſe of right intʳupted me and ye ſeid Sr Edwarde aswell of and in ye ſeid manˢ as of oyr man's undirwretyn wher uppon ye ſame Sr Edwarde ſuet unto ye kyngs highneſſe and hade ye kyngez honorable lres undir his ſignet directed to ye ſaid Sr Robt Fenys ye tenour wherof I ſend unto yow herin incloſid and as for reſidue of ye lyuelode of myn ſeid huſbonds and myn wᵗin ye ſame Shire of Kent wherin ye ſaid Willm Kene and oyr arn enfeffed that is to ſay ye manr of Tyrlyngh'm Woluᵗton Halton Newyngton Baſtram Rokeſley and Northcray wᵗh th' appʳten'ncez I of them by myn ſeid huſbonds wille ſhuld haue reſidue and take ye iſſuez and pʳfitez of theym contʳye to right and conciens takyng away my Ryght and brekyng my ſaid huſbonds wille ye ſeid Robt Fenys hath doon gret waſt and hurte ther and long tym hath take upe ye reuenuez and pʳfitez of ye ſame wher thorough I haue not my ryght and ye ſeid wille may not be pʳfoʳmed Wherfor I hertely

which I might not accordingly occupy for Sir Edward Poynings, mine ſaid Huſband's Brother, and ſo ſince my ſaid Huſband's departing, I aſſigned that the ſaid Sir Edward for certain years ſhould have and take the revenues of the Manors of Weſtwood, Eaſtwell, Loneland, Horſemonden, Totingdon, Eccles, Standon, and Combeſden, parcel of the ſaid livelihood, which are clearly yearly worth 76*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* to the intent that the ſaid Sir Edward ſhould pay mine Huſband's debts, for he would not ſuffer me to be in reſt without that he might have a rule in the livelihood; and after the ſaid aſſignment made, the ſaid Robert Fynes, contrary to truth, and without cauſe of right, interrupted me and the ſaid Sir Edward, as well of and in the ſaid manors as of other manors underwritten, whereupon the ſame Sir Edward ſued unto the King's Highneſs, and had the King's honourable Letters under his ſignet, directed to the ſaid Sir Robert Fynes, the tenour whereof I ſend unto you herein encloſed; and as for reſidue of the livelihood of mine ſaid Huſband's and mine, within the ſame Shire of Kent, wherein the ſaid William Keene and other are enfeoffed, that is to ſay, the manor of Tyrlingham, Wolverton, Halton, Newington, Bartram, Rokeſley and Northcray, with the appurtenances, I of them, by mine ſaid Huſband's will, ſhould have reſidue, and take the iſſues and profits of them, contrary to right and conſcience, taking away my right, and breaking my ſaid Huſband's will, the ſaid Robert Fynes hath done great waſte and hurt there, and long time hath taken up the revenues and profits of the ſame, where thorough I have not my right, and the ſaid will may not be performed.

Where-

pray yow yᵗ ze will labour unto yᵉ kynges highnes at yt lyketh hym addres his honorable lres to be directed to yᵉ ſeid Rob't Fenys diſchargyng hym utterly of yᵉ menuraunce occupacon and receyt of yᵉ reuenuez of yᵉ ſaid man's of Tyrlyngh'm and oyʳ accordyng to yᵉ tenoʳ of yᵉ lres labored by Sʳ Edwarde for yᵉ man's aſſigned to hym from ye Kyngs highnes directyd to yᵉ ſame Robᵗ Fynes or ſtrayter if hit may be and yᵗ I and myn aſſignez may peaſſeble rejoie theym and if eny pʳſon wold attempt to do yᵉ contr'ye yᵗ a comaundement yf it ples yᵉ kyngs hignes by hym myght be yevyn to my lorde Chaunceller to ſeall writtyngs ſufficiaunt wᵗ his gret Seall in eydyng and aſſiſting me and myn aſſignez in yˢ ſame And as for yᵉ manʳs of Eſthall Faukh'm Aſslie and Chelsfeld wᵗ th' appʳten'ntez in yᵉ ſeid ſchire of Kent whereof my hyſbond at his depʳtur was ſeaſſed and my Son ſethens unto yᵉ tyme yᵗ ye Erle of [3] Kent wᵗout eny Jnq'ſſion or title of right for yᵉ Kyng by colour of yᵉ Kynges lres patentes entret into theym and hym therof put owte and now my lorde of [4] Eſſex occupieth them in lyke manʳ and foʳme yf eny remedy therin wilbe hade J pray yow attempt hit alſo forther more I hertely pray yow yᵗ if eny genʳall pʳdon be gʳuntyd yᵗ J may haue on for Iohn Dane my Sʳunt whom yᵉ ſaid Rob't Fenys of gret malice hath endyted of felonye and yᵗ ze ſecretly labour yⁱˢ and ſend me an aunſwer in writtyng in as godly haſt

[3] Edmund Grey, Lord Grey of Ruthin, and Baron Haſtings, was created Earl of Kent, in 1465; he died in 1489.

as

Wherefore I heartily pray you that ye will labour unto the King's Highneſs, that it liketh him (*to*) addreſs his honourable Letters to be directed to the ſaid Robert Fynes, diſcharging him utterly of the menurance, occupation, and receipt of the revenues of the ſaid manors of Tyrlingham and other, according to the tenour of the letters laboured by Sir Edward, for the manors aſſigned to him from the King's Highneſs, directed to the ſame Robert Fynes, or ſtraiter if it may be, and that I and mine aſſigns may peaceably re-enjoy them; and if any perſon would attempt to do the contrary, that a commandment, if it pleaſe the King's Highneſs, by him might be given to my Lord Chancellor to ſeal writings ſufficient with his Great Seal, in aiding and aſſiſting me and mine aſſigns in the ſame.

And as for the manors of Eaſthall, Faulkham, Aſslie, Chelsfield, with the appurtenances in the ſaid Shire of Kent, whereof my Huſband at his departure was ſeiſed, and my Son ſithen (*ſince*), unto the time that the Earl of [3] Kent without any inquiſition or title of right for the King, by colour of the King's Letters Patents, entered into them, and him thereof put out, and now my Lord of [4] Eſſex occupieth them in like manner and form; if any remedy therein will be had, I pray you attempt it.

Alſo, furthermore I heartily pray you that if any general pardon be granted, that I may have one for John Dane my ſervant, whom the ſaid Robert Fynes of great malice hath endicted of felony, and that ye ſecretly labour this, and ſend me an anſwer in

[4] Henry, Viſcount Bourchier, &c. Uncle to King Edward IV. was created Earl of Eſſex, in 1461; he was ſucceeded by his Son Henry, in 1483.

writing

as ze may as ſoon as y^t may ples yow to ſend me paſſels of Coſtes and expencs ze bere and pay for y^e ſaid cauſez I will truely Content yow hit of y^e ſame and ou^r y^t rewarde yow to yo^r pleſſo^r by y^e g'ce of Ihu quo haue yow in his bleſſed keping Wrettyn in Suthwerk the xv^th daie of Decembyr.

By your awnt

[5] Elizabeth Ponyngs.

11 ½ by 11 ½.

[6] Autograph. Pl. xxv. N° 14.

LETTER LXIX.

To my ryght wyrſhypfull
mayſter S^r Iohn Paſton
knyzt be thys letter
delyvryd in haſt.

I Grytte you well and ſend you God ys bleſſyng and myn deſyryng you to ſend me werd how that ye ſpede in youre maters For I thynk ryght leng tyll I here tydyngys from you and in alwyſe J avyſe you for to be ware that ye kepe wyſly your wrytyngys that ben of Charge that it com not in her handys that may hurt you herafter your fader wham god aſſole in hys trobyll ſeſon ſet more by hys wrytyngys and evydens than

writing in as goodly haſte as ye may; as ſoon as it may pleaſe you to ſend me parcels of coſts and expences ye bear and pay for the ſaid cauſes, I will truly content you it of the ſame, and over that reward you to your pleaſure, by the grace of Jeſu, who have you in his bleſſed keeping. Written in Southwark, the 15th day of December,

By your aunt

5 ELIZABETH POYNINGS.

Southwark, 15th December,
between 1465 and 1471.
5 and 11 E. IV.

LETTER LXIX.

To my right worſhipful Maſter, Sir John Paſton, Knight, be this Letter delivered in haſte.

I Greet you well, and ſend you God's bleſſing and mine, deſiring you to ſend me word how that ye ſpeed in your matters, for I think right long till I hear tidings from you; and in alwyſe *(by all means)* I adviſe you for to beware that ye keep wiſely your writings that be of charge, that it (*they*) come not in their hands that may hurt you hereafter; your Father, whom God aſſoil! in his trouble's ſeaſon, ſet more by his writings and

than he dede by any of hys moveabell godys. remember that yf the wer had from you ye kowd neu^{r} gyte no moo ſuch as the be for your parte &c. Jt' J wold ye ſhold take hyde that yf any proceſſe Com owte a yenſt me or a yenſt any of tho that wer endyted a fore the Coroner that J myght haue knowlych therof and to p'vey a remedy therfor. It' as for your fader ys wyll J wold ye ſhold take ryght gode Counſell therin as J am enformyd it may be prevyd thogh no man take no charge thys twelfmo'th ye may haue a letter of mynyſtracyon to ſuch as ye wyll and mynyſter the godys and take no charge. I avyſe you that ye in no wyſe take no charge therof tyll ye know more than ye doo yet for ye may verely knowe by that your Unkell Will ſeyd to you and to me, that thay wyll lay the charge uppon you and me for moo' thyngys then ys expreſt in your fader ys wyll the whych ſhud be to grete for you or me to bere but as for me I will not be to heſty to take it uppon me J enſure you, and at the reverens of god ſpede your maters ſo thys terme that we may be in reſt herafter and lette not for no labo'r for the ſeaſon and remember the grete coſt and charge that we haue had hedyr toward and thynk verely it may not lenge endur ye know

This Letter is endorſed in an ancient hand, as follows, " A very good Lr$\bar{e}$ moving Sir J. P. to be carefull for his wrytings and evidence and how much his ffather did eſteme of them."

The diſputes concerning Sir John Faſtolf's Will being undetermined at John Paſton's death, his widow was fearful leſt, by taking the management of his affairs, ſhe ſhould bring both herſelf and her Son into trouble; ſhe therefore cautions him againſt interfering.

Her admonitions to Sir John reſpecting his attention to his writings and evidences, ſhew us the value our anceſtors ſet upon their title-deeds, &c.

evidence than he did by any of his moveable goods; remember, that if they were had from you, ye could never get no more ſuch as they be for your part, &c.

Item, I would ye ſhould take heed that if any Proceſs come out againſt me, or againſt any of thoſe that were indicted afore the Coroner, that I might have knowledge thereof, and to purvey a remedy therefore.

Item, as for your Father's will, I would ye ſhould take right good counſel therein, as I am informed it may be proved, though no man take no charge this twelvemonth; ye may have a Letter of adminiſtration to ſuch as ye will, and adminiſter the goods and take no charge; I adviſe you that ye in no wiſe take no charge thereof till ye know more than ye do yet, for ye may verily know by that your Uncle William ſaid to you and to me, that they will lay the charge upon you and me for more things than is expreſſed in your Father's will, the which ſhould be too great for you or me to bear, but as for me I will not be too haſty to take it upon me I aſſure you; and at the reverence of God ſpeed your matters ſo this term, that we may be in reſt hereafter, and let not for no labour for the ſeaſon, and remember the great coſt and charge that we have had hithertoward, and think verily it may not long endure; ye know what ye left when ye were laſt at

The whole Letter is replete, with good advice to a young man juſt become his own Maſter, by the death of his Father, and convinces us that the Writer knew mankind, and wiſhed her Son to profit by her experience.

N. B. The date may be later than I have placed it, but the reaſons for giving the Letter remain the ſame.

Autograph. Pl. II. N° 25.

what ye left when ye wer laſt at hom and wyte it verely therys no mor in thys Countray to bere owte no charge w^t J awyſe you to enquer wyſely yf ye canne gyte any more ther as ye be for els by my feth I feer els it will not be well w^t ous and ſend me word in haſt hough ye doo and whether ye haue your laſte dedys that ye fayled for playnly they er not in thys Contrey it ys told me in Conſell that Ric Calle hath nyer conqueryd your uncle Will w^t fayre promyſe twochyng hys lyflode and other thyngs the whych ſhold p^rvayll hym gretly as he ſayth be ware of hym and of hys felowe be myn auyſe God ſende you gode ſpede in all your maters Wryten at Caſter the moreu next after Symon and Iude wher as J wold not be at thys tyme but for your ſake So mot I ches.

By your moder.

12 by 6.

LETTER LXX.

SYR it is ſo y^t thys ſat^rday John Rus ſent me word by Rob't Botler y^t Will'm Yelu^rton hathe ben thys iij dayis in Yermothe for to get new wytneſſys up to London and as it is thowt by the ſeid Iohn Rus and Rob't Botler ther wytneſſyng is for to proue y^t it was S^r John F. wyll y^t ther ſchold be morteyſyd iij^c mark by yer to y^e colage and alſo y^t ſyche aſtat as my fadyr took

her

home, and weet it verily, there is no more in this country to bear out no charge with. I adviſe you to enquire wiſely if ye can get any more there as (*where*) ye be, for elſe by my faith, I fear elſe it will not be well with us; and ſend me word in haſte how ye do, and whether ye have your laſt deeds that ye failed, for plainly they are not in this country; it is told me in counſel that Richard Calle hath nigher conquered your Uncle William with fair promiſe, touching his livelihood and other things, the which ſhould prevail him greatly as he ſaith; beware of him and of his Fellow by mine advice. God ſend you good ſpeed in all your matters. Written at Caiſter, the morrow next after Symon and Jude, where as I would not be at this time but for your ſake, ſo might I chooſe.

By your Mother

MARGARET PASTON.

Caiſter, Wedneſday,
29th of October, 1466.
6 E. IV.

LETTER LXX.

John Paſton, to Sir John Paſton, Knight.

SIR, it is ſo that this Saturday John Rus ſent me word by Robert Butler, that William Yelverton hath been this three days in Yarmouth, for to get new witneſſes up to London, and it is thought by the ſaid John Rus and Robert Butler their witneſſing is for to prove that it was Sir John Faſtolf's will that there ſhould be amortiſed 300 marks (200*l.*) by year to the College; and alſo that ſuch eſtate as my Father took here at

Caiſter,

her at Caſtr at lames next befor yt Sr John F. dyid was delyu'yd to my fadyr to ye intent for to perform ye ſeyd wyll Barth'ew Elys John Appylby and John Clerk ar the wytneſſys And as for Barthew Elys he is owtlawyd and alſo men ſay in yermowthe yt he is bawde betwyx a clerk of Yermowthe and hys owne wyfe And as for John Appylby he is half frentyk and ſo take in the towne notwtſtandyng he is an attorny as Barthew Elys is in the baylys coort of Yermowthe And as for John Clerk of gorleſton he is owtlawyd at Sr John Faſtolfys ſwte and at dyu's othyr menys notwtſtandyng he is thorow wt Sr Thowys for Sr J. F. for thys cauſe yt the ſeyd Clerk was on of Sr Thowys laſt wytneſſys befor thys I trow Iohn Loer ſhall be anothyr wyttneſſe As for Batthew Elys and Iohn Appylby they lye thys nyht at blyborowgh onward on her wey to londonward make good weche on hem I pray yow ſend vs ſeme good tydyngs Wretyn the ſatrday lat at nyght next aftyr Kandylmas day J pray yow remēbyr John Grey and John burgeys we haue hom the moſt part of yor barly ſaue fro Wyntrton and yt I troſt to haue yis next wek or ellys we wyll ſtrat for it by the grace of god whom I beſeche

On the back of this Letter in an ancient hand is written, " Teſtes idonei ad negandū " veritatem, ut patet infra."

The diſpoſal of Sir John Faſtolf's large property occaſioned many long and expenſive conteſts, ſome claiming by heirſhip, ſome by gift, and others by different titles under his Will.

The preſent diſpute ſeems to have been relative to the Eſtate intended for the foundation of his College at Caiſter.

mak

Caiſter, at Lammas next before that Sir John Faſtolf died, was delivered to my Father to the intent for to perform the ſaid will.

Bartholomew Ellis, John Appleby, and John Clerk are the witneſſes; and as for Bartholomew Ellis he is outlawed, and alſo men ſay in Yarmouth, that he is bawd betwixt a Clerk of Yarmouth and his own wife. And as for John Appleby he is half frentyk (*crazy*) and ſo taken in the town, notwithſtanding he is an attorney, as Bartholomew Ellis is, in the Bailiff's court of Yarmouth; and as for John Clerk of Gorleſton, he is outlawed at Sir John Faſtolf's ſuit, and at divers other men's, notwithſtanding he is through with Sir Thomas for Sir John Faſtolf, for this cauſe that the ſaid Clerk was one of Sir Thomas Howys's laſt witneſſes before this. I trow John Loer ſhall be another witneſs; as for Bartholomew Ellis and John Appleby they lie this night at Blighborough, onward on their way to London ward; make good watch on them.

I pray you ſend us ſome good tidings.

Written the Saturday late at night, next after Candelmas-day. I pray you remember John Grey and John Burgeſs; we have home the moſt part of your barley, ſave from Winterton, and that I truſt to have the next week, or elſe we will ſtrait (*diſtrain q?*) for it by the grace of God, whom I beſeech make you good.

The account of the Characters of thoſe, who were going to London to be examined on this occaſion, is curious.

This Letter has neither ſubſcription nor date, but by the contents it appears to have been written to Sir John Paſton by his Brother, and not till after the death of their Father, it could not be written therefore before 1466.

Autograph. Pl. IV. N° 12.

I think.

mak yow good J thynk ther comyng vp is for to dyſproue yo^{r} wytttneſſys y^{t} he had in to the chance'ry.

I. P.

11 ½ by 6 ½.
Paper Mark,
Bull's Head and Star.
Pl. xi. N° 10.

LETTER LXXJ.

To my Ryght Worſhypfull
Maiſtras Margyt Paſton wedowe

RYGHT worchypfull Maiſtras aftyr dew recomendacon pleaſe your gode maiſtraſshyp to wete that J comyned late wyth your entier welbelouyd ſon S^{r} John Paſton of the fundacon of my maiſter Faſtolf Collage myght ben at Cambrygge yn caſe hyt ſhall nat bee at Caſtre nether at ſeynt Benetts becauſe that uniu^{r}ſyte lyeth neere the cuntree of Norff and Suff. for albe it my lord of Wyncheſtr ys diſpoſed to found a Collage yn Oxford for my ſeyd maiſter to be prayd for yhyt wyth moch leſſe Coſt he myght make ſom othyr memorialle alſo yn Cambrygge And y^{t} weere of ij Clerkys iij or iiij ſcolers founded at leeſt wyth the value of gode benefices and ryche p^{r}ſonages that myght be purſchaſed the Adoowſons wyth moch leſſe goodes then lordſhyppes or maners may And I fonde your ſon well diſpoſed to meoſe and excyte my ſeyd lord Alſo now the Criſt-

m'ſſe

I think their coming up is for to diſprove your witneſſes that ye had into the Chancery.

JOHN PASTON.

February, after 1466.
6 E. IV.

LETTER LXXI.

To my right worſhipful Miſtreſs, Margaret Paſton, Widow.

RIGHT worſhipful Miſtreſs, after due recommendation, pleaſe your good miſtreſship to weet that I communed late with your entirely well-beloved ſon, Sir John Paſton, if the foundation of my Maſter Faſtolf's College might be at Cambridge, in caſe it ſhall not be at Caiſter, neither at Saint Benet's, becauſe that Univerſity lieth near the country of Norfolk and Suffolk; for all be it, my Lord of Wincheſter is diſpoſed to found a College in Oxford for my ſaid Maſter to be prayed for, yet with much leſs coſt he might make ſome other memorial alſo in Cambridge, and *(if)* it were of two Clerks and three or four ſcholars, founded at leaſt with the value of good Benefices and rich Parſonages, that might be purchaſed the advowſons, with much leſs goods than Lordſhips or manors may; and I found your ſon well diſpoſed to move and excite my ſaid Lord.

m'ſſe weke next before the feeſt att london my lord Wyncheſter called me to hym yn p'ſence of S^r^ John and deſyrid hym effectually to be my gode wyller and maiſter wold hafe no wordes reherſed on my behalf And he ſeyd full welle wold Jhu Maiſtras that my gode maiſt^r^ that was ſom tyme your huſbond yn my ſeyd maiſt^r^ Faſtolf lyfe dayes as he ſhewed to me their coude hafe founded yn hys hert to hafe truſted and lovyd me as my maiſter Faſtolf dyd And that he wold not hafe geven credence to the malycouſe c'tryved talys that Frere Br'kley W. Barker and othyrs ymagyned ontruly ſavyng your reu^r^ence of me And now ye may opynly ondreſtand the ſothe and your ſon S^r^ John alſo And yhyt for all that J put neuyr my maiſter Faſtolf lyfelode yn trouble for alle the vnkyndneſſe and cevetuſe that was ſhewed me As I hafe declared to the berer heroff that I know ye truſt welle to whom yn thys ye may gefe credence at thys tyme god amend J Ruſſe.

I wold he had ben at Irlād for one Day ys ſake.

Yo^r^

W. W.

And I thank you hertly for my pore woman ſhe ſhuld Com to you at your cōmaundm't late or rathe but for geloſye and myſdemyng of peple that hafe me yn greete awayt And ye know welle maiſtras better ys afrende vnknow then knowen the world ys to myſdemyng and redy to make dyvyſyon and debate that

The various matter treated of in this Letter gives it a claim to be inſerted in this collection, eſpecially as it diſcovers the characters and views of many perſons mentioned in this work.

It has no date, nor can we clearly aſcertain how long after 1466 it muſt have been written; 'tis probable not a great while.

comyth

Alſo now the Chriſtmas week next before the feaſt at London, my Lord Wincheſter called me to him in preſence of Sir John, and deſired him effectually to be my good willer; and Maſter would have no words rehearſed on my behalf, and he ſaid, full well would Jeſu, Miſtreſs, that my good Maſter that was ſome time your Huſband, in my ſaid Maſter Faſtolf's life days, as he ſhewed to me, then could have found in his heart to have truſted and loved me as my Maſter Faſtolf did, and that he would not have given credence to the malicioufly contrived tales that Friar Brackley, W. Barker and others imagined untruly, ſaving your reverence, of me. And now ye may openly underſtand the ſoothe, and your ſon Sir John alſo; and yet for all that I put never my Maſter Faſtolf's livelihood in trouble, for all the unkindneſs and covetouſneſs that was ſhewed me, as I have declared to the bearer hereof, that I know ye truſt well, to whom in this ye may give credence at this time.

God amend J. Ruſs, I would he had been at Ireland for one day's ſake.

Your

WILLIAM WORCESTER

And I thank you heartily for my poor woman, ſhe ſhould come to you at your commandment late or rathe (*early*), but for jealouſy or miſdeeming of people that have me in great await (*that mean to do me miſchief*); and ye know well, Miſtreſs, better is a friend unknown than known; the world is ſo miſdeeming and ready to make diviſion and debate that cometh of an envious diſ-

William Wainfleet, the founder of Magdalen College, in Oxford, was at this time Biſhop of Wincheſter, his partiality for this Univerſity is therefore eaſily to be accounted for.

Autograph. Pl. II. N° 24.

comyth of an envyouſe diſpoſicon And J am ryght glad that Caſtr ys and ſhall be at your comaundment and yowres yn eſp'-ialle A ryche Juelle yt ys at neede for all the cuntre yn tyme of werre And my maiſtr F. wold rather he had nevyr bylded yt then hyt ſhuld be yn the gouu'nce of eny ſovereyn that wole op-preſſe the Cuntree And I fynde the Relygyoux of ſeynt Benetts full vnkynde toke Away a Chambre the elder Abbot had put me yn poſſeſſyon for my ſolace when I myzt com thedr and deſport me And toke that chambre to Maiſtr Iohn Smyth that Sr Thomas Howys ſeyd to me was none holſom counceller yn the reforma-con of the laſt teſtam't made but ij executo's to hafe the rule allone J wold he had nevyr medled of yt that councell made moch trouble I pray you kepe thys lettr cloſe to your ſylf as I truſt you and Sr Jamys and alſo yn R. Toly that I vndreſtand hym cloſe and juſt I had no tyme to ſpeke wtyn now late when I was but one day at Norwych W. B'rker ſclaundred me yn cer-teyn mat's of gode to the ſome of vc m'rk that Reynold Har-neys ſhuld kepe and take me half wold Ihu Erker had ſeyd true hyt myzt hafe do me moch gode And maiſtras as I dar deſyre you I p'y you rec'maund me to my beſt maiſtras your moder Agnes for ſhe fauorued me and dyd me grete cherytee to be the better diſpoſed to hyr ſon Maiſtr Iohn And by my ſoule yt made me the hertyer to ſafe the lyfelode fro trouble or from claymes as I ſupport me to alle the world I put nevyr maner ne lyfelode of my Maiſtr Faſtolf yn trouble ne entitled no crettur to na place and ye may ſpeke wyth hyr herof when ye be allone.

9 by 3 ½.

LET-

poſition. And I am right glad that Caiſter is and ſhall be at your commandment, and yours in eſpecial, a rich jewel it is at need for all the country in time of war; and my Maſter Faſtolf would rather he had never builded it, than it ſhould be in the governance of any ſovereign that will oppreſs the country. And I find the religious of Saint Benet's full unkind took away a chamber the elder Abbot had put me in poſſeſſion for my ſolace, when I might come thither and depart my, and took that chamber to Maſter John Wyndham, [illegible] as [illegible]s ſaid to me, was none wholeſome counſel [illegible] of mention of the laſt teſtament made but two Executors to have the rule alone, I would he had never meddled at it, that counſel made much trouble; I pray you keep this Letter cloſe to yourſelf, as I truſt you and Sir James, and alſo in R. Toly, that I underſtood him cloſe and juſt.

I had no time to ſpeak within now late, when I was but one day at Norwich, W. Barker ſlandered me in certain matters of good to the ſum of 500 marks (333*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*) that Reynold Harneys ſhould keep and take one half; would Jeſu Barker had ſaid true, it might have done me much good; and miſtreſs as I dare deſire you, I pray you recommend me to my beſt Miſtreſs, your Mother Agnes, for ſhe favoured me and did me great charity, to be the better diſpoſed to her Son Maſter John, and by my ſoul it made me the heartier to ſave the livelihood from trouble or from claims, as I report me to all the world, I put never manor nor livelihood of my Maſter Faſtolf's in trouble, nor entitled no creature to no place, and ye may ſpeak to her hereof when ye be alone.

After 1466. 6 E. IV.

LET-

LETTER LXXIJ.

To my rith worchipfull and good maſtr Ser John Paſton Knyght.

RYTH worchupful Ser aftr dewe recomendacon pleſyt zow to undrſtond the cauſe of my wrytyng ys for a maryage for my maſt'ys Nargery zowr Suſtr for my Nevyewe Iohn Straunge wold make her ſur of xl li. Joynt' and CC m'ke be zer of inherytaunce and yf zee and zour frendes wole agreve herto J troſt to god yt xall take a Concluſion to the pleſur of god And worchup to both prtyes moreour and yt pleſyth zow to wete J am ſore troblyd wt Bedſton as wele be the wey of tachements owte of the Chauncer as odrwyſe J muſt beſeche zow of zowr good maſtrſhepe and help in ſecrete maner as the Ser Thomas Lynes the brynger of thys ſhall enforme zow J xall be att London in the begynnȳg of thys terme bethe g'ce of god qwych p'ſerue zowe Wretyn att Norwych in haſt the Monday aftr Twelthe day.

By yowr

J. Strange.

12 by 4 ½.
Paper Mark,
A Coronet.
Pl. xxvi. N° 2.

In the propoſals of marriage here preſerved of this diſtant age, we find the care and attention paid by our anceſtors to the endowment of the Lady; moſt propoſals being accompanied with terms for that purpoſe.

LET-

LETTER LXXII.

To my right worſhipful and good Maſter, Sir John Paſton, Knight.

RIGHT worſhipful Sir, after due recommendation, pleaſe it you to underſtand the cauſe of my writing is for a marriage for my Miſtreſs Margery your Siſter; for my Nephew John Straunge would make her ſure of forty pounds jointure, and two hundred marks (133*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*) by year of inheritance; and if ye and your friends will agree thereto, I truſt to God it ſhall take a concluſion to the pleaſure of God and worſhip to both parties.

Moreover, and it pleaſeth you to weet, I am ſore troubled with Bedſton, as well by the way of attachment out of the Chancery as otherwiſe; I muſt beſeech you of your good maſterſhip and help in ſecret manner, as Sir Thomas Lynes the bringer of this ſhall inform you. I ſhall be at London in the beginning of this term by the grace of God, which preſerve you. Written at Norwich, in haſte, the Monday after Twelfth-day.

By your

J. STRANGE.

Norwich, January,
between 1466 and 1469.
6 and 9 E. IV.

The Stranges or L'Eſtranges here mentioned, were of the ancient and knightly family of L'Eſtrange, of Hunſtanton in Norfolk.

The male line of this houſe ended with the late Sir Roger L'Eſtrange, Bart. the female branch ſurvives in the families of Aſtley, of Melton, and Styleman, of Hunſtanton, in Norfolk.

Autograph. Pl. xxv. N° 23.

LET-

LETTER LXXIJJ.

To Iohn Paſton
ye yonger be yis
deliu'ed in haſt.

I Grete you wele and ſend you godds blyſſyng and myn latyng you wete that ſith ye depᵗed my Coſyn Calthorp ſent me a lettᵗ Compleyning in his wrytyng that for aſmych as he can not be payd of his tenᵗnts as he hat be befor this tyme he pᵗpoſith to leſſe his howſhold and to leve the ſtreytlyer wharfor he deſireth me to pᵗuey for yoᵗ Suſtᵗ Anne he ſeth ſhe waxeth hygh and it wer tyme to pᵗvey her a mariage I marveyll what cauſeth hym to write ſo now outher ſhe hath diſpleaſed hym or ell he hath takyn her wᵗ diffaught therfor I pᵗy you Comune wᵗ my Coſyn Clere at london and wete how he is dyſpoſyd to her ward and ſend me word for I ſhall be fayn to ſend for her and wᵗ me ſhe ſhall but leſe her tyme and wᵗ ought ſhe wull be the bettᵗ occupied ſhe ſhall oftyn tymes meve me and put me in gret inquieteneſſe remembr what laboᵗ I had wt yoᵗ ſuſtᵗ yᵗfor do yoᵗ pᵗte to help her forth that may be to yoᵗ wurchiep and myn Itᵗ remembr the bill yᵗ I ſpake to you of to gete of yoᵗ brother of ſuch money as he hath receyvid of me ſith yoᵗ faders diſſeas ſe yoᵗ vnkyll Mautby if ye may and ſend me Sume tydyngs as Sonee as ye may God kepe you Wretyn the Fryday next befor ſent Thomᵗs of Cauntᵗbury in haſt.

By yoᵗ moder.

11 ½ by 6.

LET-

The date of this Letter from Margaret Paſton does not appear, but it ſeems to have been written within a few years after her huſband's death, though as the age of her Daughter Anne at her father's deceaſe is not known, we cannot exactly aſcertain it.—Anne was now grown tall, and becoming a woman. The endeavouring to educate young

LETTER LXXIII.

To John Paſton, the younger, be this delivered in haſte.

I Greet you well, and ſend you God's bleſſing and mine, letting you weet that ſince ye departed my Couſin Calthorpe ſent me a Letter complaining in his writing that for as much as he cannot be paid of his tenants as he hath been before this time, he propoſeth to leſſen his houſehold, and to live the ſtraitlier, wherefore he deſireth me to purvey for your ſiſter Anne, he ſaith ſhe waxeth high *(grows tall)*, and it were time to purvey her a marriage; I marvel what cauſeth him to write ſo now, either ſhe hath diſpleaſed him or elſe he hath taken her with ſome default; therefore I pray you commune with my Couſin Clere at London, and weet how he is diſpoſed to her ward, and ſend me word, for I ſhall be fain to ſend for her, and with me ſhe ſhall but loſe her time, and without ſhe will be the better occupied ſhe ſhall often times move me and put me in great inquietneſs; remember what labour I had with your ſiſter, therefore do your part to help her forth, that may be to your worſhip and mine.

Item, remember the bill that I ſpake to you of to get of your Brother of ſuch money as he hath received of me ſince your Father's deceaſe; ſee your Uncle Maultby if ye may, and ſend me ſome tidings as ſoon as ye may; God keep you. Written the Friday next before Saint Thomas of Canterbury, in haſte, (29*th of December*).

By your Mother

MARGARET PASTON.

Friday, December, between 1466 and 1470. 6 and 10 E. IV.

young women in the houſes of their ſuperiors, or of their friends and relations at a diſtance from home has been before noticed, (ſee Letter XXXV. Vol. I. p. 144.) and was certainly a very proper method of having them inſtructed. Autograph. Pl. II. N° 25.

LETTER LXXJU.

To ye right worchepfull
Sr Iohn Paſton Knyght.

RIGHT worchepfull Sr J recom' me to yu like yu wete a diſtreſſe was take in Caſtr by Thomas Pekok I trowe yor ſrvant a beſy man called of a full true ſowle Iohn Hadynet of Haryngby a pore man his plow hath loyn eur ſith he ſeith J undſtonde it is for catts landes J ſent my Clerk to my Maſtreſſe yor Moder and ye ſeid Iohn wt hȳ y'for and my Maſtreſſe wold hȳ Come ageyn a noyr day for Pecok was not yanne at home ſo he ded and can not have it as he ſeith but yt ye wold J ſhuld ſpeke wt yu at Caſtr y'of and of oyr Mat's he tolde me yis day and by cauſe of my Moders yereday holden yis day god have hir ſowle and to morwe ſhal be a good day J wol by godd's g'ce diſpoſe me to his m'cy ageyns Thruſday as I have vſed y'for J p'y yu p'don my comyng in ye weke aftr Eſter J entend to ſe yu and my ſeid Maſtreſſe c'teynly it is loong ſeth I ſy hir me ſemt and if ye be not yanne at Caſtr I p'y yu ſend me worde yt I may Come ſoner to yu to Comon wt yu in yis matr and in all oyr what ye wil and ſone deptr to london fro yens and y'for J wil abide wt yu a good while Sr as to Catts ye be remēbred what I

I have printed this Letter as ſhewing not only the friendly and juſt diſpoſition of the writer, evident from the advice which he gives Sir John Paſton, but to ſhew the duty and reſpect of children then continued annually to the memory of their deceaſed Parents.

The Year-day or Anniverſary of any perſon's death was called the Obit; and to obſerve ſuch day with Prayers and Alms, or other commemoration, was called keeping the Obit.

ſeid

LETTER LXXIV.

To the right worſhipful Sir John Paſton, Knight.

RIGHT worſhipful Sir, I recommend me to you, like you (*to*) weet a diſtreſs was taken in Caiſter, by Thomas Peacock, I trow your ſervant, a buſy man called, of a full true ſoul, John Hadynet, of Heringſby, a poor man, his plough hath lain ever ſince, he ſaith; I underſtand it is for Catt's land, I ſent my clerk to my miſtreſs your mother, and the ſaid John with him therefore; and my miſtreſs would him come again another day, for Peacock was not then at home; ſo he did, and cannot have it as he ſaith, but that ye would I ſhould ſpeak with you at Caiſter thereof, and of other matters he told me this day; and becauſe of my mother's year-day holden this day, God have her ſoul; and to-morrow ſhall be a good day, I will by God's grace diſpoſe me to his mercy againſt Thurſday, as I have uſed, therefore I pray you pardon my coming; in the week after Eaſter, I intend to ſee you and my ſaid miſtreſs certainly; it is long ſince I ſaw her me ſeemeth, and if ye be not then at Caiſter, I pray you ſend me word that I may come ſooner to you to commune with you in this matter, and in all other that ye will, and ſo depart to London from thence, and therefore I will abide with you a good while.

We find that Hugh Fenne ſtrictly fulfilled this obſervance of filial duty to his deceaſed Mother.

The Device on his Seal is a flouriſhing Tree, having the initial letters of his names, one on each ſide; it alluded perhaps to his own happy and flouriſhing ſituation in reſpect to his fortune, family, and friends.

Autograph. Pl. XXIV. N° 4.

ſeid to y^{u} at london at ij tymes I am y^{e} ſame man I have ſith I cam geten yevidences in to m$\bar{y}$ handes and I am redy to ſhewe yem what lerned man her y^{t} ye wol aſſigne y^{e} mater is cler to my thynkyng Titleſhale y^{t} ſolde it to S^{r}. J Faſtolf myght as wele a ſolde h$\bar{y}$ yo^{r} lande or m$\bar{y}$ and if y^{e} ſale be lawfull I ſhal leve my hands at the firſt as I ſaid at london y^{e} diſtreſſe to be kept for y^{t} I wiſſe it nede not and it was unlawfully taken like it y^{u} to do delyv^{r}e y^{e} pore man his goods ageyn I am redy to anſwer y^{u} for elde and new as right wol. I ſhal breke no day to be aſſigned for to leve all oy^{r} thyngs.

By the bliſſed lady I beleve y^{t} ye wol diſpoſe y^{u} wele and ſo I p^{r}y god ye do and have y^{u} in his bliſſed gov^{r}naunce.

Wr. at y^{e} hede town of Norff yis tuyſday.

Yo^{r} owen

Ꝑ. atte ffenne.

11 ½ by 11 ¼.

Paper Mark,
Roſe and Croſs.
Pl. xxvi. N° 1.

Seal, a flouriſhing Tree, with the Letter Ꝑ on one ſide and Ꝼ on the other. Pl. xiv. N° 13.

LET.

Sir, as to Catt's ye be remembered what I ſaid to you at London at two times, I am the ſame man; I have ſince I came gotten the Evidences into my hands, and I am ready to ſhew them what learned man here that ye will aſſign, the matter is clear to my thinking. Titleſhale that ſold it to Sir John Faſtolf might as well have ſold him your land or mine; and if the ſale be lawful, I ſhall leave my hands at the firſt as I ſaid at London, the diſtreſs to be kept for that, I wiſs it need not, and it was unlawfully taken, like it you to do deliver the poor man his goods again, I am ready to anſwer you for old and new as right will, I ſhall break no day to be aſſigned for to leave all other things.

By the Bleſſed Lady I believe that ye will diſpoſe you well, and ſo I pray God ye do, and have you in his bleſſed governance. Written at the head Town of Norfolk, this Tueſday.

Your own

HUGH at FENNE.

Norwich,
Tueſday, March or April,
between 1467 and 1469.
7 and 9 E. IV.

ET-

LETTER LXXU.

To Sr Iohn Paſton
Knyght be yis deliu'ed
in haſt.

I Grete you wele and ſend you godds bliſſyng and myn letyng you wete that Blykklyng of Heyleſdon came fro london this weke and he is right mery and maketh his boſt that wt in this fourtnyght at Heyleſdon ſhuld be bothe new lords and new officers and alſo this day was brought me word fro Cayſtr that Ryſyng of Freton ſhuld haue herd ſeid in diu'ſe plac's ther as he was in Suff. that Faſtolf of Conghawe maketh all the ſtrenght that he may and p'poſith hym to aſſaught Cayſtr and to entre ther if he may in ſamych that it is ſeyd that he hath a v ſcore men redy and ſendyth dayly aſpies to und'ſtand what feleſshep kepe the place be whos power or favor or ſupportacon that he wull do this I knowe not but ye wote wele that I haue ben affrayd ther befor this tyme whan that I had other Comfort than I haue now and I can not wele gide ner rewle ſodyos and alſo thei ſet not be a woman as thei ſhuld ſet be a man. Therfor I wold ye ſhuld ſend home yor brothers or ell Dawbenye to haue a rewle and to takyn in ſuch men as wer neceſſary for the ſaffe-

The exact date of this Letter is not eaſily determined, not is it of any conſequence, it only ſhews that one of the family of Faſtolf, of Suffolk, pretended a claim to Caiſter, and intended coming to aſſert that claim with a large fellowſhip; whether this was Thomas Faſtolf, the ſon of the Lady who had ſome time before applied to J. Paſton for his aſſiſtance towards regaining the livelihood of her Son, out of the hands of thoſe who had the wardſhip of him, does not appear.

gard

LETTER LXXV.

To Sir John Paſton, Knight, be this delivered in haſte.

I Greet you well, and ſend you God's bleſſing and mine, letting you weet that Blickling of Heyleſdon came from London this week, and he is right merry, and maketh his boaſt that within this fortnight at Heyleſdon ſhould be both new Lords and new officers; and alſo this day was brought me word from Caiſter, that Ryſing of Fretton ſhould have heard ſaid in divers places there, as he was in Suffolk, that Faſtolf of Conghawe maketh all the ſtrength that he may, and propoſeth him to aſſault Caiſter, and to enter there if he may, inſomuch that it is ſaid that he hath a five ſcore men ready, and ſendeth daily ſpies to underſtand what fellowſhip keep the place; by whoſe power, or favour, or ſupportation, that he will do this, I know not, but ye wot well that I have been affrayed *(frightened)* there before this time, when that I had other comfort than I have now; and I cannot well guide nor rule ſoldiers, and alſo they ſet not by a woman as they ſhould ſet by a man, therefore I would ye ſhould ſend home your Brother or elſe Dawbeny to have a rule, and to take in ſuch men as were neceſſary for the ſafe-guard of the

*

I have ventured to fix the date of this Letter to 1468, as it moſt probably was written about that time.

Relic Sunday, is the Sunday fortnight after Midſummer-day.

Autograph. Pl. II. N° 25.

place,

gard of the place. For if J wer ther w^t^ought I had the mor ſadder or wurchepfull p^r^ſones abought me. And ther comyn a meny of Knavys and p^r^vaylled in ther entent it ſhuld be to me but a vylney. And I haue ben abought my liffelode to ſet a rewle ther in as I haue wretyn to you which is not yet all p'fo'med aft' myn deſyre and I wuld not goo to Cayſtr till I had don J wull no mor days make ther abowtyn if I may therfor in any wyſe ſend ſume body home to kepe the place and whan that J haue do and p^r^fo^r^med that J haue be gunne I ſhall p'poſe-me thed^r^ward if J ſhuld do ther any good and ell J had leu^r^ be thens. J have ſent to Nicholas and ſuch as kepe the place that thei ſhuld takyn in ſume feles to aſſiſte and ſtrengh them till ye ſend hame ſū other word or ſume other man to gou'ne them y^t^ ben therin &c. J marvayll gretly that ye ſend me no word how that ye do for yo^r^ elmyſe begynne to wax right bold and that puttith yo^r^ frends bothyn in grete fere and dought therfor p'vey that thei may have ſume Comfort y^t^ thei be no more diſcoraged For if we leſe o^r^ frends it ſhall hard in this troubelous werd to kete them ageyn The bliſſid Trynyte ſpede you in yo' mater and ſend you the victory of yo' elmyſe to you^r^ herts eas and ther Confuſyon Wretyn at Norwich the Sat'day next befor Relyke Sonday in haſt J p'y you remembre wele the maters y^t^ J wrote to you for in the letter y^t^ ye had be James Gre-

ſh'm's

place, for if I were there without I had the more ſadder *(graver)* or worſhipful perſons about me, and there come a many of knaves, and prevailed in their intent, it ſhould be to me but a villany; and I have been about my livelihood to ſet a rule therein, as I have written to you, which is not yet all performed after mine deſire, and I would not go to Caiſter till I had done; I will no more days make thereabout if I may, therefore in any wiſe ſend ſome body home to keep the place, and when that I have done and performed that I have begun, I ſhall purpoſe me thither-ward, if I ſhould do there any good, and elſe I had lever (*rather*) be thence.

I have ſent to Nicholas, and ſuch as keep the place, that they ſhould take in ſome fellows to aſſiſt and ſtrength them, till ye ſend home ſome other word, or ſome other man to govern them that be therein, &c.

I marvel greatly that ye ſend me no word how that ye do, for your elmyſe (*enemies*) begin to wax right bold, and that putteth your friends both in great fear and doubt, therefore purvey that they may have ſome comfort, that they be no more diſcouraged, for if we loſe our friends it ſhall (*be*) hard in this troubleſome world to get them again.

The bleſſed Trinity ſpeed you in your matters, and ſend you the victory of your enemies, to your heart's eaſe and their confuſion.

Written at Norwich, the Saturday next before Relick Sunday, in haſte.

I pray you remember well the matter that I wrote to you for

ſh'm's man and ſend me an anſwer ther of be y^e^ next man y^t^ Comyth, &c.

Be yo^r^ mod^r^

M. P.

11 ¾ by 8 ¼.
Paper Mark,
A Snake.
Pl. xxvii. N° 10.

LETTER LXXIV.

To my moſte honorabyl
lord [1] Cadenall and Archibuſhop
of Caunt'bury.

MOSTE Reu'ent and my ryght good lord J Recomaund me to your gracyous lordſhyp yn my moſte humble wyſe pleaſe your lordſhyp to wete that my lord Norff. councell hath now late mevyd S^r^ Wyll'm Yelu^r^ton knyght and me to be p'ferryd for to purchaſſe the maner of Caſtre and certeyn other lordſhypps that wer my mayſtyr Faſtolf whom god pardon owt excepted the maner of gũton that yowr lordſhyp deſyryth to purchaſſe. And othyr certeyn maners that my maſtyr Faſtolf frendys hafe deſyred to be p'ferryd. And be cauſe the p'tens bargayn that John [2] Paſton yn hys lyffe ſurmytted bye colour of

On the back of this Letter is the following Memorandum.

" Sir T. Howys agreith to ſell the manno^r^ of Caiſter to the Duke of Norff. and movith " thereto my Lord Cardenall."

It was in conſequence of this agreement with Sir Thomas Howys, one of the Executors of Sir John Faſtolf, that the Duke of Norfolk I ſuppoſe claimed the Manor and Caſtle of Caiſter, and in purſuit of that claim undertook to beſiege it, in the manner explained in the following Letters.

which

in the Letter that ye had by James Greſham's man, and ſend me an anſwer thereof by the next man that cometh, &c.

By your Mother

MARGARET PASTON.

Norwich, Saturday,
9th of July,
1468. 8 E. IV.

LETTER LXXVI.

To my moſt honourable [1] *Lord Cardinal, and Archbiſhop of Canterbury.*

MOST reverend and my right good Lord, I recommend me to your gracious Lordſhip in my moſt humble wiſe; pleaſe your Lordſhip to weet that my Lord *(of)* Norfolk's Counſel hath now late moved Sir William Yelverton, Knight, and me to be profferred for to purchaſe the Manor of Caiſter, and certain other Lordſhips that were my Maſter Faſtolf's, whom God pardon! out excepted the Manor of Gunton that your Lordſhip deſireth to purchaſe, and other certain Manors that my Maſter Faſtolf's friends have deſired to be profferred; and becauſe the pretens *(pretended)* bargain that John [2] Paſton in his life-time ſurmitted *(ſurmiſed)* by colour of which he intended to have all

[1] Thomas Bourchier, Biſhop of Ely, was tranſlated to Canterbury in 1454. He died an old man, in 1486.

[2] What Sir Thomas Howys ſays of J. Paſton muſt be believed with caution, as they had diſagreed concerning the executorſhip of Sir John Faſtolf's Will.

which he entended to hafe all my maſtyr Faſtolf londes in Norff and Suff. for nought ſauyng the hygh reuerenee of your aſtate was not iuſte ne trew. And be cauſe that J wyth othyr of my maſtr Faſtolf executors may haue wher of to dyſpoſpoſe yn cheryte full dedys to do for hys ſowle J haue condefcended the rather that my ſeide lord of Norff. ſhall be p'ferryd to the purchaſſe of the ſeyde maner of Caſtre. And othyr maners that may be ſparyd to thencreſſe of hys lyfelode yn thys land and thys covenntys to be engroced upp wythynne ſhorth tyme as by all Halowaunce in caſe yowr lordſhyp be agreed and pleſyd wyth all wher uppon J wold beſeche yowr nobyll lordſhyp to lete me wete your good pleſr and avice yn thys behalfe. And be cauſe my ſeyd lord Norff. ys to nere of blode to yowr hyghneſſe knyghted that meevyd me to be the more wyllyng to Condeſcend to the forſeyd purchaſſe and ſo truſtyng your lordſhyp wold be ryght well pleaſed wyth alle. Wretyn at Norwich the x day of Octobyr. A° viij R E iiijti.

Yowr pore
Chapleyn
[3] T. Howys.

12 ¾ by 6.
Paper Mark,
Bull's Head and Star.
Pl. xi. N° 10.

[3] Autograph. Pl. xix. N° 16.

LET

my Maſter Faſtolf's lands in Norfolk and Suffolk for nought, ſaving the high reverence of your eſtate, was not juſt nor true; and becauſe that I with other of my Maſter Faſtolf's Executors may have whereof to diſpoſe in charityful deeds to do for his ſoul; I have condeſcended, the rather that my ſaid Lord of Norfolk ſhall be preferred to the purchaſe of the ſaid Manor of Caiſter, and other Manors that may be ſpared to the increaſe of his livelihood in this land, and theſe covenants to be engroſſed up within ſhort time as by Halowaunce (*Hallomas*, 1 *November*), in caſe your Lordſhip be agreed and pleaſed withall, whereupon I would beſeech your noble Lordſhip to let me weet your good pleaſure and advice in this behalf.

And becauſe my ſaid Lord (*of*) Norfolk is ſo near of blood to your highneſs knitted, that moved me to be the more willing to condeſcend to the foreſaid purchaſe, and ſo truſting your Lordſhip would be right well pleaſed withall. Written at Norwich, the 10th day of October, in the 8th year of the reign of Edward IV.

Your poor Chaplain

THOMAS HOWYS.

Norwich, Monday,
10th of October, 1468. 8 E. IV.

LET-

LETTER LXXIX.

To my ryght welbelouyd brother
John Paſton eſqer beyng at Caſt' or
to John Dawbeney yʳᵉ be this lett'
d'd.

RYGHT welbelouyd brother J comand me to yow letyng yow wete yᵗ I haue wagyd for to helpe yow and Dawbeney to kepe yᵉ place at Caſtr iiij wel aſſuryd and trew men to do al manʳ of thyng what yᵗ they be deſyryd to do in ſaue gard or enforcyng of yᵉ ſeyd place and mor ouyr they be prouyd men and connyng in the werr and in fetys of armys and they kan wele ſchote bothe gonnys and croſſebowes and amende and ſtrynge them and devyſe bolwerkys or any thyngs that ſcholde be a ſtrenkthe to yᵉ place and they wol as nede is kepe wecche and warde they be ſadde and wel advyſed men ſauyng on of yem whyche is ballyd and callyd Wyll'm Peny whyche is as goode a man as gothe on the erthe ſauyng a lytyll he wol as I underſtand be a lytel copſchotyn but yit he is no brawler but ful of corteſye meche uppon Jamˢ Halman the other iij be named Peryn Sale John Chapman Rob't Iakys Son ſauyng yᵗ as yit they haue non harneyſe Comyn but when it komyth it ſchall be ſent to yow and in the meane whyle I pray yow and Dawbeney to p'uey them ſome alſo a cople of beddys they moſt nedys have whyche I pray yow by the help of my modre to p'uey for them tyl yᵗ I Com home to yow ye ſchall fynde them gentylmanly

LETTER LXXVII.

To my right well-beloved Brother, John Paſton, Eſquire, being at Caiſter, or to John Dawbeney there, be this Letter delivered.

RIGHT well-beloved Brother, I commend me to you, letting you weet that I have waged for to help you and Dawbeney to keep the place at Caiſter, four well aſſured and true men to do all manner of thing what that they be deſired to do in ſafe-guard, or inforcing (*ſtrengthening*) of the ſaid place; and moreover they be proved men, and cunning (*expert*) in the war, and in feats of arms, and they can well ſhoot both Guns and Croſsbows, and amend and ſtring them, and deviſe bulwarks, or any things that ſhould be a ſtrength to the place, and they will as need is, keep watch and ward, they be ſad (*ſerious*) and well adviſed men, ſaving one of them, which is balled (*bald*), and called William Peny, which is as good a man as goeth on the earth, ſaving a little, he will, as I underſtand, be a little copſchotyn (*high creſted*), but yet he is no brawler, but full of courteſy, much upon (*much like*) James Halman; the other three be named Peryn Sale, John Chapman, Robert Jack's Son (*Jackſon*), ſaving that as yet they have none harneſs come, but when it cometh it ſhall be ſent to you, and in the mean while I pray you and Dawbeney to purvey them ſome.

Alſo, a couple of beds they muſt needs have, which I pray you by the help of my Mother to purvey for them, till that I come home to you; ye ſhall find them gentlemanly, comfortable fellows,

Comfortable felawes and that they wol and dare abyde be ther takelyng and if ye undreſtond y^t^ any aſſawte ſchold be towardys I ſende yow thes men becawſe y^t^ men of y^e^ contre ther about yow ſcholde be frayed for fer of loſſe of ther goods wherfor if ther wer any ſuche thyng towards J wolde ye take of men of the contre but few and that they wer well aſſuryd men for ellys they myght diſcorage alle the remenant and affor any wryghtyng fro the Kyng he hathe promyſyd y^t^ y' ſchall come non [1] and if ther do his unwarys yowr anſwer may be thys how the Kyng hathe ſeyd and ſo to delay them tyll J may haue worde and I ſchall ſone p'uey a remedy. J underſtond y^t^ ye haue ben w^t^ my lorde of Norfolke now of late what ze haue don I wete not we ſe y^t^ he ſhal be her ageyn thys daye. Mor ouyr I trow Iohn Alforde ſchall not longe abyde w^t^ my lorde J ſchall ſende yow tydyng of other thyngys in haſte w^t^ the grace of god who &c. wretyn on Wednyſday nexte befor Seynt Martyn.

[4] John Paſton.

I fer y^t^ Dawbeney is not alther beſt ſtoryd to Contenew howſold longe lete hym ſend me worde in haſt and J wyll releve hym to my power and or longe to I hope to be w^t^ yow.

R'ger Ree is ſcheryff of Norfolke and he ſchall be good jnow the xchet' J am not yit apertaynyd of.

This Letter informs us of the preparations for the defence of Caiſter, and gives us a very minute account of the ſeveral merits of the four warlike men ſent down to be uſeful when it ſhould be attacked.

[1] I do not underſtand this ſentence, perhaps it means, "unleſs they take him unexpectedly."

Alſo

fellows, and that they will and dare abide by their taking, and if ye underſtand that any aſſault ſhould be towards, I ſend you theſe men, becauſe that men of the country there about you ſhould be frayed (*frightened*) for fear of loſs of their goods; wherefore if there were any ſuch thing towards, I would ye took of men of the country but few, and that they were well aſſured men, for elſe they might diſcourage all the remanent.

And as for any writing from the King, he hath promiſed that there ſhall come none, [1] and if there do his unwarys (*with his privity*), your anſwer may be this, how the King hath ſaid, and ſo to delay them till I may have word, and I ſhall ſoon purvey a remedy.

I underſtand that ye have been with my Lord of Norfolk now of late, what ye have done I wot not; we ſay that he ſhall be here again this day. Moreover, I trow John Alford ſhall not long abide with my Lord; I ſhall ſend you tidings of other things in haſte, with the grace of God, who, &c. Written on Wedneſday next before Saint Martin.

[4] JOHN PASTON.

I fear that Dawbeney is not all there (*altogether*) beſt ſtored to continue houſehold long; let him ſend me word in haſte, and I will relieve him to my power, and ere long too I hope to be with you.

Roger Ree is Sheriff of Norfolk, and he ſhall be good enough. The Eſcheator I am not yet aſcertained of.

[4] Autograph. Pl. IV. N° 9.

The Original Letter is written upon a whole ſheet of paper, of which a quarter was cut away before the Letter was finiſhed, ſo that the bottom part of it is only half the width of the upper.

Alſo y^{t} thes men be at y^{e} begynnyng entretyd as corteyſly as ye can.

Alſo J pray yow to ſende me my [2] flowr be y^{e} next maſſanger y^{t} comyth.

Alſo as for my lorde Fytz Wat' oblygacion J know non ſuche in myn adward as yit.

Alſo y^{e} obligacion of the biſhop of Norwychys oblygacion J neu^{r} ſye it y^{t} J remẽbre wherfor J wolde and prey my modre to loke it up.

Alſo as for the [3] byble y^{t} the Maſt^{r} hath I wend the utt^{r}moſt pryſe had not paſſyd v m'rk and ſo I trowe he wyl geue it wet J pray yow.

Alſo as for ſyr Wyll'm Barber and ſyr Wyll'm Falyate I wolde if they kan p'uey for them ſelfe folfayne be dyſchargyd of them.

11 ½ by 17.

Paper Mark,
Bull's Head and Star.
Pl. x. N° 1.

[2] This may mean Flour for houſehold uſe; or it may ſignify his Flower, his device or cognizance.

Alſo, that theſe men be at the beginning entreated as courteouſly as ye can.

Alſo, I pray you to ſend me my [2] Flower by the next meſſenger that cometh.

Alſo, as for my Lord Fitzwalter's obligation I know none ſuch in mine adward as yet.

Alſo, the obligation of the Biſhop of Norwich's obligation, I never ſaw it that I remember, wherefore I would, and pray my Mother to look it up.

Alſo, as for the [3] Bible that the Maſter hath, I wend the utmoſt price had not paſt five Marks (3*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*) and ſo I trow he will give it, weet I pray you.

Alſo, as for Sir William Barber and Sir William Falgate, I would, if they can purvey for themſelves, full fain be diſcharged of them.

London,
Wedneſday, 9th November,
1468. 8 E. IV.

[3] This muſt mean ſome MS. Copy, for at this time there was only one printed Edition of the Bible, which would have ſold even then for a much greater ſum than is here mentioned.

I mean, "Biblia Latina. Mogunt. per J. Fuſt and P. Schoiffer 1462."

LETTER LXXXIII.

To myght' well belouyd
Brother Iohn Paſton or to
John Dawbeney in his abſence.

RYGHT worſchypful and well belouyd brother J comand me to yow letyng yow wete y^{t} S^{r} Thom's Howes hadde a free Chapell in Caſtr wher of y^{e} gyfte longyth to me whyche Chapell as I underſtande ſcholde be in the olde tyme er the place at Caſt^{r} wer bylte w^{t} in the motte wherfor J ame but the bett^{r} pleaſed and ſoo it is now y^{t} at the ſpeciall requeſt of the qwen and other eſpeciall good lordes of myn I haue geuyn it to y^{e} berer her of Callyd maſt^{r} John Yotton a Chapleyn of y^{e} qwenys neu^{r}thelle in tyme paſſyd J p'poſyd that J maſt^{r} of the Colegg ſcholde haue hadd it and ſo er longe to J hope he ſchall wherfor J thynke he moſt take poſſeſſion and that is the Cawſe of hys Comyng wherfor I pray yow make hym good Cher he is informyd that it ſcholde be worthe C^{s} be yer whyche I belyue not J thynke it der jnow xl^{s} by yeer he moſt haue it as it was hadde befor. It'm thys daye I underſtonde that ther be comen lett'is

At a time when his keeping poſſeſſion of Caiſter was doubtful, it was a ſtroke of policy in Sir John Paſton to gain the good will of the Queen, by preſenting her Chaplain to the free Chapel at Caiſter, though his intention had been to have united it to the maſterſhip of his College there, and this he does not now deſpair of accompliſhing, as it was probable that the Queen's Chaplain, would ſoon have ſuch preferment as would induce him to reſign this!

The difference of opinion between the parſon who was to receive the money, and him who was to pay it, is a curious anecdote, and the cautious determination of Sir John likewiſe is worthy obſervation, that this Prieſt "muſt have it as it was hadde befor."

from

LETTER LXXVIII.

To my well-beloved Brother, John Paſton, or to John Dawbeney, in his abſence.

RIGHT worſhipful and well-beloved Brother, I commend me to you, letting you weet that Sir Thomas Howes had a free Chapel in Caiſter, whereof the gift belongeth to me, which Chapel as I underſtand ſhould be in the old time, ere the place at Caiſter were built, within the moat, wherefore I am but the better pleaſed; and ſo it is now that at the ſpecial requeſt of the Queen and other eſpecial good Lords of mine, I have given it to the bearer hereof called Maſter John Yotton, a Chaplain of the Queen's; nevertheleſs in time paſt I purpoſed that the Maſter of the College ſhould have had it, and ſo ere long to, I hope he ſhall, wherefore I think he muſt take poſſeſſion, and that is the cauſe of his coming; wherefore I pray you make him good cheer; he is informed that it ſhould be worth an hundred ſhillings by year, which I believe not; I think it dear enough (*at*) forty ſhillings by year; he muſt have it as it was had before.

Item, this day I underſtand that there be come Letters from

The following Entry is taken from the Inſtitution Books of the Biſhop of Norwich.

" Cantaria in Cayſter-hall."

" Lib. xi. p. 170. 21 Mar. 1468. Mr. Iohēs Yetton S. T. P. ad col. Epī pr lapſ."

By which it appears that Sir John Paſton's preſentation either was not allowed, or was not made out in time, and that the Biſhop preſented by a lapſe.

Autograph. Pl. iv. N° 9. Seal, a Fleur de Lys in the centre, ſurrounded by nine others. Pl. xiv. N°. 23.

my

from my moder and yow and Dawbeney wherin J ſchall ſende yow anſwer when J haue ſeyn them No mor at y^is^ tyme for w^t^in this iij dayes J ſhall lette yow haue Kneleche of other mat'rs Wretyn the xviij day of Marche. Whether he nedyth indoccion or inſtitucion or non J wot not if it nede brother ye may ſeale any ſuche thynge as well as J maſt^r^ Steuyn kan tell all ſuche thynges.

John Paſton, K.

12 by 7.
Paper Mark,
A Ring.
Pl. xxii. N° 17.

LETTER LXXX.

To the Baly of Mawlteby.

MAYSTER Baly I recomaunde me on to yow Praynge yow that ye woll ſende me be Wyll'm Hokkys berer her of iiij nobylles in golde putt in to the ſame boxe that thys byll is in as thow it were euydens for I haue tolde the maſengere that he ſchulde brynge me nothyng but euydens for he is in a manere dep^r^tyng owt of my ſ'uyſe wherfore J wold nott he knew ſo myche of my counſell and as for the remenaunte I wellde ze ſchulde kepe it tyll I come my ſelfe And if bayard be

my Mother and you, and Dawbeney, wherein I ſhall ſend you anſwer when I have ſeen them.

No more at this time, for within this three days I ſhall let you have knowledge of other matters.

Written the 17th day of March.

Whither he needeth induction, or inſtitution, or none, I wot not; if it need, brother ye may ſeal any ſuch thing as well as I. Maſter Stephen can tell all ſuch things.

JOHN PASTON, Knight.

London,
Friday, 17th of March,
1468. 9 E. IV.

LETTER LXXIX.

To the Bailiff of Mawteby.

MASTER Bailiff I recommend me unto you, praying you that ye will ſend me by William Cocks bearer hereof, four Nobles in gold, put into the ſame box that this bill is in, as though it were evidence, for I have told the meſſenger that he ſhould bring me nothing but evidence, for he is in a manner departing out of my ſervice, wherefore I would not he know ſo much of my counſel, and as for the remanent I would ye ſhould keep it till I come myſelf.

And

onſolde I pray yow late hym be made fatte ageyns the Kynge Come in to the contre what ſo eu^{r} I pay for the kepyng of hym and I ſchall wete how goode a corſer I ſchall be my ſelfe at my comyng in to the Contre be the grace of god who haue yow in kepyng Wretyn at Henyngh'm.

Be yo^{r}

Wyll'm Paſton.

12 by 3 ½.

The curioſity of this Letter conſiſts in the cautions given by W. Paſton to the Bailiff for the ſafe and ſecret conveyance of the money, and in his attention to the good keeping of his horſe Bayard.

LETTER LXX.

To Sr John Paſton.

I Grete you wele and ſend you godds bliſſyng and myn thankyng you for my ſeall that ye ſent me but I am right ſory that ye dede ſo grete coſt y' up on for on of xl^{d} ſhuld haue ſ^{r}ued me right wele, ſend me ward what it coſt you and J ſhall ſend you money therfor J ſend you a lett^{r} be a man of Yarmoth ſend me word if ye haue it for I marveyll ye ſent me non anſwer ther of be Juddy J haue non very knowleche of yo^{r} enſuraunce but if ye be enſured J p'y god ſend you Joy and wurchep to ged^{r} and ſo

J troſt

And if Bayard be unfold, I pray you let him be made fat againſt the King come into the country, whatſoever I pay for the keeping of him, and I ſhall weet how good a courſer I ſhall be myſelf, at my coming into the country, by the grace of God, who have you in keeping. Written at Heveningham.

By your

WILLIAM PASTON.

Heveningham, Suffolk,

. . . .

Perhaps 1469. 9 E IV.

William Paſton was Brother to John Paſton, and Uncle to Sir John, and probably wrote this Letter in the reign of Edward IV. Autograph. Pl. II. N° 21.
Edward IV. was in Norfolk in 1469, and again in 1474.

LETTER LXXX.

To Sir John Paſton.

I Greet you well, and ſend you God's bleſſing and mine, thanking you for my Seal that ye ſent me, but I am right ſorry that ye did ſo great coſt thereupon, for one of forty pence ſhould have ſerved me right well; ſend me word what it coſt you, and I ſhall ſend you money therefore; I ſent you a Letter by a man of Yarmouth, ſend me word if ye have it, for I marvel ye ſent me none anſwer thereof by Juddy.

I have none very (*certain or true*) knowledge of your inſurance (*engagement*), but if ye be inſured, I pray God ſend you joy and

J troſt ye ſhull haue if it be as it is reported of ᵗ her and a nemps god ye arn as gretly bownd to her as ye were maried and y'for I charge you up on my bliſſyng that ye be as trew to her as ſhe wer maried on to you in all degrees and ye ſhall haue the mor g'ce and the bettʳ ſpede in all other thyngs. Alſo J wuld yᵗ ye ſhuld not be to haſty to be maried till ye wer more ſuer of yoʳ lyuelode for ye muſt remembr what charge ye ſhall haue and if ye haue not to mayntene it it wull be a gret rebuke and therfor laboʳ that ye may haue releſes of the londs and be in more ſuerte of yoʳ lond or than ye be maried The Ducheſſe of ᵗ Suff. is at Ewhelm in Oxford Shir and it is thought be yoʳ frends her that it is do yᵗ ſhe myght be ferr and ought of the wey and yᵉ rather feyne excuſe be cauſe of age or ſikeneſſe and if yᵗ the kyng wuld ſend for her for yoʳ maters yoʳ elmyſe be as bold her as thei wer befor wherfor J can not thynk but that thei haue ſume Comfort J ſent to Cayſtʳ that thei ſhuld be war in kepyng of yᵉ place as ye dede wright to me haſt you to ſpede your maters as ſpedily ye can that ye may haue leſſe feleſshep at Cayſtʳ for the expencs and coſts be grete and ye haue no nede y'of and ye remembre you wele what chargs ye haue beſide and how yoʳ liffelode is diſpoyled and waſted by yoʳ aduʳſaries alſo J wuld ye ſhuld

The reader cannot help being intereſted in the family ſcenes here laid before him; the pleaſure his Mother expreſſes at her Son's engagement, and the good and prudent advice ſhe gives him relative to his marriage, ſhews her anxiety for his future happineſs.

The deſire which ſhe has to have her Daughter (Margery I ſuppoſe) introduced into the family of ſome noble Lady, ſhews her concern for her education, at the ſame time that it hints at their not being comfortable together.

The handſome character given of Sir John Paſton, by my Lord Scales, and repeated to him by his Mother, ſhews her ſatisfaction at hearing ſo good a report of him.

worſhip together, and ſo I truſt ye ſhall have, if it be as it is reported of [1] her; and anemps (*before*) God, ye are as greatly bound to her, as *(if)* ye were married, and therefore I charge you upon my bleſſing, that ye be as true to her as *(if)* ſhe were married unto you in all degrees, and ye ſhall have the more grace and the better ſpeed in all other things.

Alſo, I would that ye ſhould not be too haſty to be married till ye were ſure of your livelihood, for ye muſt remember what charge ye ſhall have, and if ye have not to maintain it, it will be a great rebuke; and therefore labour that ye may have releaſes of the lands, and be in more ſurety of your land, or than (*before*) ye be married.

The Ducheſs of [2] Suffolk is at Ewelm, in Oxfordſhire, and it is thought by your friends here, that it is done, that ſhe might be far and out of the way, and the rather feign excuſe becauſe of age or ſickneſs, if that the King would ſend for her for your matters.

Your enemies be as bold here as they were before, wherefore I cannot think but that they have ſome comfort; I ſent to Caiſter that they ſhould beware in keeping of the place, as ye did write to me; haſte you to ſpeed your matters as ſpeedily as ye can, that ye may have leſs fellowſhip at Caiſter, for the expences and coſts be great, and ye have no need thereof; and ye remember you well what charges ye have beſide, and how your livelihood is diſpoiled and waſted by your adverſaries.

[1] Who the Lady is, does not appear in this Letter, but it moſt probably meant Anne Hault.

[2] Alice, widow of William de la Pole, Duke of Suffolk, was the daughter and heir of Thomas Chaucer, Eſq. of Ewelm, and grand-daughter of our famous Poet, Geoffry Chaucer.

p^r^vey for yo^r^ [3] Suſt^r^ to be w^t^ my lady of [4] Oxford or w^t^ my lady of [5] Bedford or in ſume other wurchepfull place wher as ye thynk beſt and J wull help to her fyndyng for we be eyther of us werye of other. J ſhall telle you more whan I ſpeke w^t^ you J p'y you do yo^r^ devyr her in as ye wull my Comfort and welefar and yo^r^ wurchep for diu^r^ſe cauſes which ye ſhall und^r^ſtand aft^r^ward &c. J ſpake w^t^ the lord Skales at Norwich and thanked hym for the good lordſhep that he had ſhewed to you and deſired his lordſhep to be yo^r^ contynuall good lord and he ſwore be his trought he wold do that he myght do for you and he told me that Yelu^r^ton the Iuſtice had ſpoke to hym in yo^r^ maters but he told me not what' but J trow and ye deſired hym to telle you he wuld ye ar be holdyng to my lord of his good report of you in this Contre for he reported bett^r^ of you than J trow ye def^r^ue. J felt be hym that ther hath be p^r^fered hym large p^r^feres on yo^r^ adu^r^ſaries p^r^te ageyn you. Send me word as haſtly as ye may aft^r^ the begynnyng of the t^r^me how ye haue ſped in all yo^r^ maters for I ſhall thynk right long till J her ſume good tidyngs Jt' I p'y you recomaund me to the good [6] Mayſt^r^ that ye gaffe to the Chapell' of Cayſt^r^ and thank hym for the gret Coſt that he dede on me at Norwych and if J wer a grette lady he ſhuld und^r^ſtand that he ſhuld far the bett^r^ for me for me ſemyth be his

[3] This was moſt probably Margery Paſton, with whom the whole family were, very ſoon after the writing of this Letter, ſo much diſpleaſed for having without their conſent contracted herſelf in marriage to Richard Calle.

[4] Elizabeth, the Daughter of Sir John Howard, Knight, and widow of John de Vere, Earl of Oxford, who was beheaded in 1461-2.

demenyng

Alſo I would ye ſhould purvey for your [3] Siſter to be with my Lady of [4] Oxford, or with my Lady of [5] Bedford, or in ſome other worſhipful place, whereas ye think beſt, and I will help to her finding, for we be either of us weary of other; I ſhall tell you more when I ſpeak with you; I pray you do your devyr (*endeavour*) herein, as ye will my comfort and welfare, and your worſhip, for divers cauſes which ye ſhall underſtand afterward, &c.

I ſpake with the Lord Scales at Norwich, and thanked him for the good Lordſhip that he had ſhewed to you, and deſired his Lordſhip to be your continual good Lord; and he ſwore by his troth he would do that he might do for you, and he told me that Yelverton the Juſtice had ſpoken to him in your matter, but he told me not what; but I trow, and *(if)* ye deſired him to tell you, he would. Ye are beholden to my Lord of his good report of you in this country, for he reported better of you than I trow ye deſerve. I felt by him that there hath been proffered him large proffers on your adverſaries part again you.

Send me word as haſtily as ye may after the beginning of the term, how ye have ſped in all your matters, for I ſhall think right long till I hear ſome good tidings.

Item, I pray you recommend me to the good [6] Maſter that ye gave to the Chapel of Caiſter, and thank him for the great coſt that he did on me at Norwich; and if I were a great Lady he ſhould underſtand that he ſhould fare the better for

[5] Jaqueline, Daughter of Peter, of Luxenburgh, Earl of St. Paul, the widow of John Plantagenet, Duke of Bedford, was at this time the wife of Richard Widville, Earl Rivers, by whom ſhe was the Mother of Anthony Widville, Lord Scales, the nobleman mentioned in this Letter; ſhe died in 1472.

[6] Dr. John Yotton, to whom Sir John Paſton had given the Chapel of Caiſter in 1468.

mc,

demenyng he ſhuld be right a good man Jt' I ſend you the [7] nowche w^t the Dyamaunch be the berer herof.

I pray yow forgate not to ſend me a [8] kerſche of Cr'melle for nekkerchys for y^r ſyſt'. Anne for I ā ſchente of y^e good lady y^t ſche is w^t be cawſe ſche hathe non and I cā non gette ī alle thys towne I xuld wrythe mor to yow but for lakke of leyſer God have yow ī hys kepyng and ſend yow good ſpede ī alle y^r maters wryt~ ī haſte on Eeſtern mūday.

Be y^r mod^r

11 ½ by 9 ½.

7 An Ouch is a collar of gold, formerly worn by women; a gold button, ſet with ſome jewel, is likewiſe ſo called, and that moſt probably was the ornament here mentioned to be ſent to Sir John by his Mother; we may ſuppoſe it was intended as a preſent to his betrothed Bride.

8 A Kerſche of Cr'melle, perhaps means a kerchief of Cremell, crewel or worſted, to be made into neck-handkerchiefs for her Daughter Anne, who appears to have been for education and board with ſome Lady of conſequence.

LETTER LXXXJ.

To maſter ſyr
Iohn Paſton.

SYR I pray yow recomand me to my lord Scalys good lordſhep and to let hym weet y^t in lyek wyſe as hys lordſhep gaue me in comandemēt J haue enqweryd what y^e gentyllmanys anſwer

me, for me ſeemeth by his demeaning he ſhould be right a good man.

Item, I ſend you the [7] ouch with the diamond, by the bearer hereof. I pray you forget not to ſend me a [8] kerſche of Cr'melle, for neckerchiefs for your ſiſter Anne, for I am ſchent *(blamed)* of the good Lady the ſhe is with, becauſe ſhe hath none, and I can none get in all this town.

I ſhould write more to you but for lack of leiſure; God have you in his keeping, and ſend you good ſpeed in all your matters. Written in haſte, on Eaſter Monday.

By your Mother

[9] MARGARET PASTON.

Norwich, Monday,
3d of April, 1469.
9 E. IV.

9 Autograph. Pl. II. N° 25.
On the back of this Letter is this Note.
" The L. Scales is now frend to S[r] J. Paſton," which implies that he had not always been ſo.

LETTER LXXXI.

To Maſter Sir John Paſton.

SIR, I pray you recommend me to my Lord Scales's good lordſhip, and to let him weet, that, in like wiſe as his lordſhip gave me in commandment, I have enquired what the gentleman's

anſwer was that my lord of Norff. ſent to to awayte up on hym at the kȳgs Comȳg in tothys Contre. hys anſwer was to my lord of Norfolk's meſſenger that he had promyſyd my lord Scalys to awayte up on hym at the ſame ſeſon and in as myche as he had promyſyd my lord Scalys he wold not falſe hys promeſſe for no man on lyue J fond the menys that the ſeyd gentylemanys wyfe mevyd hyr huſbend w^t the ſame mater as thow ſhe had axyd hym of hyr awne hed and he told hyr that he had geuyn thys anſwer thys gentylman is S^r W. [1] Calthorp but I pray yow tell my lord Scalys that ye undyrſtand not who it is for he preyid me to be ſecret ther in. J pray w^t all my hart hye yow hom in haſt for we thȳk longe tyll ye coome And I pray yow ſend me woord whedyr ye ſhall be mad a [2] cryſten man or ye Com home or nowt And if ſo be y^t ye ſend eny man hom haſtely J pray yow ſend me an [3] hat and a bonet by y^e ſame man and let hym brȳg the hat upon hys hid for mysfacyonȳg of it J haue ned to bothe for I may not ryd nor goo owt at y^e doorys w^t non y^e I haue they be ſo lewde a murry bonet and a blak or a tawny hat and god ſend yow yo^r deſyr Wretyn at Caſt' the viij day of Apryll.

Yo^r

[4] J. Paſton.

11 ½ by 4 ½.

Edward IV. came into Norfolk in the Spring of the year, in 1469. We ſee the deſire which noblemen had to be honourably attended on ſuch occaſions, and the intereſt they employed to procure a reſpectable retinue when they came to meet their ſovereign. John Paſton in this caſe applied to the Lady to find out her Huſband's intentions, and it appears that his application was ſucceſsful.

[1] Sir William Calthorpe, Knight, had been High Sheriff of Norfolk and Suffolk, both in this and the preceding reiga, and died very old in 1494. His ſecond wife was Elizabeth, daughter and co-heir of Sir Miles Stapleton, Knight, of Ingham.

LET.

man's anſwer was that my Lord of Norfolk ſent to await upon him at the King's coming into this country; his anſwer was to my Lord of Norfolk's meſſenger, that he had promiſed my Lord Scales to await upon him at the ſame ſeaſon, and in as much as he had promiſed my Lord Scales, he would not falſe his promiſe for no man on live (*alive*). I found the means that the ſaid gentleman's wife moved her Huſband with the ſame matter as though ſhe had aſked him of her own head, and he told her that he had given this anſwer; this gentleman is Sir William [1] Calthorpe, but I pray you tell my Lord Scales that ye underſtand not who it is, for he prayed me to be ſecret therein.

I pray with all my heart hie you home in haſte, for we think long till ye come; and I pray you ſend me word whether ye ſhall be made a [2] Chriſtian man ere ye come home or not; and if ſo be that ye ſend any man home haſtily, I pray you ſend me an [3] Hat and a Bonnet by the ſame man, and let him bring the hat upon his head for (*fear of*) misfaſhioning of it; I have need to both, for I may not ride nor go out at the doors with none that I have, they be ſo lewd (*ſhabby*), a murrey bonnet, and a black or a tawny hat, and God ſend you your deſire; written at Caiſter, the 7th day of April.

Your

[4] JOHN PASTON.

Caiſter, Friday, 7th of April,
1469. 9 E. IV.

[2] If this mean that Sir John Paſton was now to be chriſtened it appears ſomewhat extraordinary, and what elſe it can mean I know not, unleſs we may infer from this expreſſion an entrance into ſome religious ſociety.

[3] We have here a proof of the early introduction of hats; and J. Paſton's care that his might not be put out of ſhape, is worthy a beau of the preſent age.

[4] Autograph. Pl. IV. N° 12.

LETTER LXXXIJ.

Jhs.

WYRSHYPFULL and my ryght gode frend J comaund me to you And where as J am enfor̃med that my lorde of Norff p'tendeth title to ſerteyn londys of S' John Paſtons whych were late of S' John Faſtolf it is ſayd that by the Comaundement and ſupportacyon of my ſayd lord ſertayn hys f'unts felleth wode maketh grete waſt and deſtrayned the ten'nts of the ſeyd lands to the grete damage of the ſeyd Sr Iohn Paſton and hys ſayd ten'nts And alſo that my ſayd lord entendyth to entre ſertayn places of the ſame And for aſmoch as maryage ys fully concluded by twyx the ſeyd Sr Iohn Paſton and on of my nerreſt kynneſwomen J dout not that your reaſon wele Conceyueth that nature muſt Compelle me the rather to ſhewe my gode wylle aſſyſtens and favor̃ unto the ſeyd Sr Iohn in ſuch thyngs as concerne hys enheryt'ns and becauſe J am on of my ſaid lordys Councayll and muſt and will tendre hys honor̃ J hertely p'y you that it may lyke you to advrtyſe and avyſe my ſayd lord and yourys that all ſuch entres fellyng of wode deſtraynyngs of ten'nts and all ſuch maters lyke touchyng the ſayd londes or any part of them be ceſſyd unto ſuch tyme as a reſonſonabell meane may be founde by my ſayd lords counſayll my lord my faders and other couſyns and frendes of my ſeyd kynneſwoman thys next terme as may be to my ſayd lordys honor̃ and to the ſauyng of the ryght tytle of the ſeyd Sr John Paſton

Our

LETTER LXXXII.

IHS.

WORSHIPFUL and my right good Friend, I commend me to you, and whereas I am informed that my Lord of Norfolk pretendeth title to certain lands of Sir John Paſton's which were late of Sir John Faſtolf, it is ſaid that by the commandment and ſupportation of my ſaid Lord, certain his ſervants felleth wood, maketh great waſte, and diſtrained the tenants of the ſaid lands, to the great damage of the ſaid Sir John Paſton and his ſaid tenants; and alſo that my ſaid Lord intendeth to enter certain places of the ſame; and for as much as marriage is fully concluded betwixt the ſaid Sir John Paſton and one of my neareſt kinſwomen, I doubt not that your reaſon well conceiveth, that nature muſt compel me the rather to ſhew my good will, aſſiſtance, and favour unto the ſaid Sir John in ſuch things as concern his inheritance; and becauſe I am one of my ſaid Lord's counſel, and muſt and will tender his honour; I heartily pray you that it may like you to advertiſe and adviſe my ſaid Lord and yours, that all ſuch entries, felling of wood, diſtraining of tenants, and all ſuch matters like, touching the ſaid lands or any part of them, be ceaſed unto ſuch time as a reaſonable mean may be found by my ſaid Lord's counſel, my Lord my father's and other couſins and friends of my ſaid kinſwoman this next term, as may be to my ſaid Lord's honour, and to the ſaving of the right title of the ſaid Sir John Paſton.

Ou^r thys I p'y you that ye wille enfo^rme my gode frend Iames Hobard of the p'myſſes that he may advertyſe my ſeyd lord in lyke wyſe and that ye will yeve credens unto William Paſton and J ſhal be welwilled to do that may be to your pleſur w^t godds mercy. ffro Weſtmynſtre the x day of Apryll.

LETTER LXXXIII.

RYGHT truſty and welbelouyd I grete you well and for aſmoch as a maryage ys fully concluded bytwyx S^r John Paſton and my ryght nere kynneſwoman Hawte J will that ye and all other my f'unts and ten'nts underſtand that my lord my Fader and I muſt of nature and reaſon ſhewe unto hym our gode aſſyſtens and favo^r in ſuch maters as he ſhall haue a doo wherfor J p'y you hertely that ye will take the labo^r to come to Norwych to comen w^t William Paſton and to yeve credens unto hym in ſuch maters as he ſhall enfo^rme you of myne entent and of ſer-

A copy of this and the foregoing Letter are written upon the ſame piece of paper, but without ſignature or addreſs. The following memorandum on the back of the paper however aſcertains both.

"Copea Litērz Dñi de Scales ad conciliū Dūc Norff & alijs (*alios*) in favore "J. Paſton mil. eò quod maritaret Cognatā ſuam Annā Hawte."

The contents of theſe Letters ſufficiently aſcertain the advantages ariſing from forming connections with families of conſequence; no ſooner was an alliance propoſed, but both the Father and Son take Sir John Paſton and his affairs under their protection; the Duke of Norfolk's counſel, (of which Lord Scales was one), were immediately to take care that no further injuries were to be committed upon his property, and the ſervants and dependants of theſe powerful noblemen are to do all in their power to give him every aſſiſtance.

tayn

Over this I pray you that ye will inform my good friend James Hobart of the premiſſes, that he may advertiſe my ſaid Lord in like wiſe; and that ye will give credence unto William Paſton, and I ſhall be well willed to do that may be to your pleaſure, with God's mercy.

From Weſtminſter, the 10th day of April.

SCALES.

Weſtminſter,
Monday, 10th of April.
1469. 9 E. IV.

LETTER LXXXIII.

RIGHT truſty and well-beloved, I greet you well, and for as much as a marriage is fully concluded betwixt Sir John Paſton and my right near kinſwoman Anne Hawte, I will that ye and all other my ſervants and tenants underſtand that my Lord, my father, and I muſt of nature and reaſon ſhew unto him our good aſſiſtance and favour, in ſuch matters as he ſhall have a do; wherefore I pray you heartily that ye will take the labour to come to Norwich, to commune with William Paſton, and to give credence unto him in ſuch matters as he ſhall inform you of my intent, and of certain perſons with whom ye ſhall commune

This marriage never took effect, and the manner in which this affair is ſeveral times mentioned in the Iſt and IId Volumes of this work, ſerves only to involve it in myſtery.

It appears here that the Lady's connections were great, and that ſhe muſt have been nearly related to the Queen.

Theſe Letters being only copies, I have it not in my power to preſent the reader with a fac ſimile of Lord Scales's hand-writing. The paper and hand-writing are both of the time that the Letters were written, and it is probable that theſe were either tranſcribed immediately from the Originals, or were thoſe copies from which the Originals themſelves were taken.

by

tayn p^r^ſones w^t^ whom ye ſhall Comen by th' auyſe of the ſeyd Will Paſton of ſuch maters as touch the ſayd S^r^ Iohn Paſton prayng you to tendre thys mater as ye wolde do myne owne ffro Weſtmynſtre the x day of Aprill.

11 ½ by 8 ½.

LETTER LXXXIII.

To my brother
Iohn Paſton.

RYGHT worſchypful and verrely welbelouyd brother I hertely comande me to yow thankyng yow of yowr labor and dyligence that ye haue in kepyng of my place at Caſtr ſo ſewerly both w^t^ yowr hert and mynde to yowr gret biſyneſſe and troble and I ageyn warde haue hadde ſo lytell leyſer that I haue not ſpedde bot fewe of yowr erendys ner kannot befor thys tyme asfor my lady boleynes dyſpoſicion to yow werds I kannot in no wyſe fynde hyr a greable y^t^ ye ſcholde haue her dowter for all the preuy meanes y^t^ I kowde make inſo moche I hadde ſo lytell Comfor by all the meanes y^t^ I kowde make y^t^ I dyſdeyned in myn own prſon ſo Comon w^t^ hyr ther in Neu^r^theleſſe I vndreſtande y^t^ ſche ſeythe what if he and ſche kan agre I wyll not lette it but I will neu^r^ advyſe hyr therto in no wyſe and uppon teweſday laſt paſt ſche rood hom in to Norfolke Wherfor as ye thynke ye may fynde the meane to ſpeke w^t^ hyr yowr

by the advice of the ſaid William Paſton, of ſuch matters as touch the ſaid Sir John Paſton, praying you to tender this matter as ye would do mine own. From Weſtminſter, the 10th day of April.

SCALES.

Weſtminſter,
Monday, 10th of April,
1469. 9 E. IV.

LETTER LXXXIV.

To my Brother, John Paſton.

RIGHT worſhipful and verily well-beloved Brother, I heartily commend me to you, thanking you of your labour and diligence that ye have in keeping of my place at Caiſter, ſo ſurely both with your heart and mind, to your great buſineſs and trouble; and I againward have had ſo little leiſure that I have not ſped but few of your errands, nor cannot before this time.

As for my Lady Boleyn's diſpoſition to you ward, I cannot in no wiſe find her agreeable that ye ſhould have her daughter, for all the privy means that I could make, inſomuch I had ſo little comfort by all the means that I could make, that I diſdained in mine own perſon to commune with her therein; nevertheleſs I underſtand that ſhe ſayeth, "what if he and ſhe can agree I will "not let it, but I will never adviſe her thereto in no wiſe." And upon Tueſday laſt paſt ſhe rode home into Norfolk; wherefore as ye think ye may find the mean to ſpeak with her your-

ſelf,

ſelfe for w^t^ owt that in myn Conceyt it wyl not be And as for Croſſeby I undreſtand not y^t^ y' is no maryage Concluded betwen them neu^r^theleſſe ther is gret langage y^t^ it is lyke to be ye be p^r^ſonable and p^r^auēt' yowr beyng ones in the ſyght of y^e^ mayde and a lytele deſcuv'yngof yo^r^ good wyl to hyr byndyng hyr to kepe it ſecret and y^t^ ye kam fynde in yowr hert w^t^ ſom cōfort of hyr to fynde the meane to brynge ſuche a mat^r^ abow^t^ as ſchall be hyr pleaſ^r^ and yowrs but that thys ye kannot do w^t^ owt ſom cōfort of hyr in no wyſe and ber yor ſelfe as lowly to y^e^ moder as ye lyſt but to y^e^ mayde not to lowly ner that ye be to gladde to ſpede ner to ſory to fayle and J alweys ſchall be your herault bothe her if ſche com hydd^r^ and at home when J kome hom whych I hope haſtly w^t^ in xl dayes at y^e^ feith' my modre hathe a lett^r^ whych can tell yow mor and ye may lat Dawbeney ſe it.

John Paſton, k.

J ſuppoſe and ye kall
welle upon R Calle he
ſchall p'uey yow mony
I haue wretyn to hym Jnow.

This Letter muſt have been written in 1469, as the thanks to his Brother here given by Sir John Paſton, related to his proper and ſpirited conduct at Caiſter Place.

His attention to whoſe ſucceſs in his marrriage with the daughter of Lady Boleyn, ſhews his good nature, and his brotherly regard for him; and the advice which he gives him, reſpecting his behaviour both to the Lady and her daughter, ſhews Sir John to be a man who not only knew the world, but likewiſe one who underſtood the paſſions and prejudices of individuals.

He ſeemed to think too that a handſome young man could not fail of pleading his own cauſe ſucceſsfully with a young Lady.

ſelf, for without that in mine conceit it will not be; and as for Croſby, I underſtand not that there is no marriage concluded between them, nevertheleſs there is great language that it is like to be; ye be perſonable, and peradventure your being once in the ſight of the maid, and a little diſcovering of your good will to her, binding her to keep it ſecret, and that ye can find in your heart with ſome comfort to her, to find the mean to bring ſuch a matter about, as ſhall be her pleaſure and yours, but that this ye cannot do without ſome comfort of her in no wiſe; and bear yourſelf as lowly to the Mother as ye liſt, but to the maid not too lowly, nor that ye be too glad to ſpeed, nor too ſorry to fail; and I always ſhall be your herald both here, if ſhe come hither, and at home, when I come home, which I hope haſtily, within forty days at the fartheſt; my Mother hath a Letter which can tell you more, and ye may let Daubeney ſee it.

JOHN PASTON, Knight.

I ſuppoſe and *(if)* ye call well upon R. Calle he ſhall purvey you money, I have written to him enough.

London, April,
1469. 9 E. IV.

Sir Godfrey, or Sir Jeffery Boleyn, was Lord Mayor of London, about 1457 or 1458. He died in 1463, leaving Anne, the daughter of Thomas Lord Hoo and Haſtings, his widow, by whom he had three daughters, Iſabel, Anne, and Alice, the laſt of theſe was the Lady to whom J. Paſton wiſhed to pay his addreſſes, and who afterwards married Sir John Forteſcue, knight. The elder married William Cheyney, Eſq. and the other became the wife of Sir Henry Heydon, of Baconſthorp, knight, and all were great Aunts to Queen Anna Boleyn, the Mother of our Sovereign Elizabeth.

Autograph. Pl. IV. N° 9.

LETTER LXXXII.

SYR pleſyth yow to weet y^{t} my modyr and I comonyd y^{is} day w^{t} freyr mowght to undyrſtand what hys ſeyīg ſhall be in the Coort when he Comyth up to london wheche is in y^{is} wyſe he ſey^{t} at ſyche tyme as he had ı ſhreuyn maſter Brakley and howſyllyd hym bothe he let hym wet that he was enformyd by dyu's perſonys that the ſeyd maſter Brakley owt for to be in gret conſyens for ſyche thyngys as he had doone and ſeyd and cauſyd my Fadyr whom god aſoyle for to do and ſeye alſo in prouīg of S^{r} Iohn Faſtolfys wyll to whom the ſeyd maſtyr Brakley anſwerd thus agayne. I am ryght glad that it Comyth to yow in mynd for to meue me w^{t} thys mater in dyſchargyng of my conſyens ayenſt god ſeyīg ferther mor to the ſeyd freyr mowght bethe wey y^{t} hys ſowle ſhold to that the wyll y^{t} my fadyr put into the Coort was as v^{r}yly Syr Iohn Faſtolfys wyll as it was trew that he ſhold onys deye. thys was ſeyd on the Sonday when y^{e} ſeyd Brakley wend to haue deyid then on the Monday he reuyuyd a yen and was well amendyd tyll on the Wednyſday and on the Wednyſday he ſekyn'd a yen ſuppoſyg to haue dyeyd forthe w^{t} And in hys ſyknes he callyd freyr Mowght whyche was Confeſſor

This curious Letter furniſhes us with the ſolemn declarations of a ſick man on his death-bed, relative to the authenticity of the Will of Sir John Faſtolf, which was proved by John Paſton, and which was reported not to have been the real Will of that Knight.

The Paſtons had many long and expenſive ſuits at law on this account, which were not finiſhed either in the life-time of John Paſton, or in that of his Son Sir John Paſton.

Theſe

LETTER LXXXV.

John Paſton, to his Brother Sir John Paſton.

SIR, pleaſe it you to weet that my Mother and I communed this day with Friar Mowght, to underſtand what his ſaying ſhall be in the court when he cometh up to London, which is in this wiſe: he ſay that at ſuch time as he had [1] ſhriven Maſter Brackley, and howſelled him both, he let him weet that he was informed by divers perſons, that the ſaid Maſter Brackley ought for to be in great conſcience for ſuch things as he had done and ſaid, and cauſed my Father, whom God aſſoil! for to do and ſay, alſo in proving of Sir John Faſtolf's Will; to whom the ſaid Maſter Brackley anſwered thus again; "I am right glad that it cometh to you in mind for to move me with this matter in diſcharging of my conſcience againſt God;" ſaying furthermore to the ſaid Friar Mowght, by the way that his ſoul ſhould to, that the Will that my Father put into the court was as verily Sir John Faſtolf's Will, as it was true that he ſhould once die. This was ſaid on the Sunday when the ſaid Brackley wend *(thought)* to have died then; on the Monday he revived again, and was well amended till on the Wedneſday, and on the Wedneſday he ſickened again, ſuppoſing to have died forthwith, and in his ſickneſs he called Friar Mowght, which was confeſſor unto him,

Theſe ſolemn aſſertions of a prieſt, and a man of learning and character, thus conſcientiouſly declared, muſt have had great weight in clearing the character of J. Paſton from theſe foul aſperſions, eſpecially as they came from ſo reſpectable a man as Friar Mowth or Mowght, who was a Brother of conſequence in the Monaſtery at Norwich. (See Letter XII. Vol. I. p. 256, 259.)

[1] The meaning of this is, after he had heard his confeſſion, and adminiſtered the extreme Sacrament to Maſter Brackley.

feſſor on to hym of hys owne moſyon ſeȳg on to hym in thys wyſe Syr wher as of yo^{r} owne moſyon ye meuyd me the laſt day to tell you aftyr my conſyens of S^{r} John Faſtolfys wyll lyek wyſe as I knew and now of myn owne mocyon and in diſchargȳg of my ſowle for I know well y^{t} I may not aſkape but y^{t} I muſt dye in haſt Wharfor I deſyr you that wyll report aftyr my dethe y^{t} I took it upon my ſowle at my dyīg y^{t} that wyll y^{t} Iohn Paſton put into be prouyd was ſyr Iohn Faſtolfys wyll and the ſeyd brakley dyid the ſame Wedneſdaye and wher as ye wold haue had Rychard Calle to yow as on Sonday laſt paſt it was thys twyiſday or I had yo^{r} lettyr and wher as it pleſyth yow for to wyſhe me at Eltam at the [2] Tornay for the good ſyth y^{t} was ther by trowththe J had leuer ſe yow onys in Caſt' halle then to ſe as many kȳgs tornay as myght be betwyx eltam and london And ſyr whar as it lyekyth yow to deſyir to haue knowlage how y^{t} I haue don w^{t} y^{e} lady [3] boleyn by my feythe I haue don nor ſpokyn nowght in y^{t} mater nor not wyll do tyll tyme y^{t} ye com hom and ye Com not thys vij yer not w^{t}ſtandyng y^{e} lady boleyn was in Norwyche in the week aftyr Eſtern fro the Saterday tyll the Wednyſday and Heydons wyfe and maſtras Alys bothe and I was at Caſt' and wyſt not of it. hyr men ſeyd y^{t} ſhe had non othyr erend to the Towne but for to ſport hyr bot ſo

[2] Sir John Paſton is ſaid to have been the King's Champion at this Tournament at Eltham.

[3] Anne, daughter and heir of Thomas Lord Hoo and Haſtings, married Sir Geffrey Boleyn, knight, Lord Mayor of London, whoſe widow ſhe now was, and by whom ſhe had ſeveral children. One of her daughters married Sir John Heydon, of Baconſthorpe, and Alice (another here mentioned) became afterwards the wife of Sir John Forteſcue, knight.

god

of his own motion, ſaying unto him in this wiſe, "Sir, whereas of your own motion ye moved me the laſt day to tell you after my conſcience of Sir John Faſtolf's Will likewiſe as I knew; and now of mine own motion, and in diſcharging of my ſoul, for I know well that I may not eſcape, but that I muſt die in haſte, wherefore I deſire you that *(you)* will report after my death, that I took it upon my ſoul at my dying, that that will that John Paſton put in to be proved was Sir John Faſtolf's will;" and the ſaid Brackley died the ſame Wedneſday.

And whereas ye would have had Richard Calle to you as on Sunday laſt paſt, it was this Tueſday ere I had your Letter; and whereas it pleaſeth you for to wiſh me at Eltham, at the [2] Tournay, for the good fight that was there, by truth I have lever *(rather)* ſee you once in Caiſter-hall than to ſee asmany King's tourney as might be betwixt Eltham and London.

And, Sir, whereas it liketh you to deſire to have knowledge how that I have done with the Lady [3] Boleyn, by my faith I have done nor ſpoken nought in that matter, nor nought will do till time that ye come home, and (*if*) ye come not this ſeven year; notwithſtanding the Lady Boleyn was in Norwich in the week after Eaſter, from the Saturday till the Wedneſday, and Heydon's wife and Miſtreſs Alice both, and I was at Caiſter, and wiſt not of it; her men ſaid that ſhe had none other errand to the Town but for to ſport her, but ſo God help me, I ſuppoſe

This Lady Boleyn was great grandmother to Queen Anne Boleyn, wife of Henry VIII. and the young Ladies her daughters, here introduced, were her great Aunts.

Some pedigrees mention Sir Geoffry to have had a ſecond wife, who was the mother of theſe daughters, if ſo, the Lady Boleyn here mentioned muſt be her.

god help me J ſuppoſe y^{t} ſhe wend I wold haue ben in Norwyche for to haue ſen hyr dowghter J beſeche yow w^{t} all my hart hye yow hom thow ye ſhold tery but a day for I promyſe yow yo^{r} folk thynk y^{t} ye haue forgetyn hem and the moſt part of them muſt depart at Whytſontyd at the fertheſt they wyll no lenger abyd and as for R Calle we can not get half a q'rt^{r} y^{e} mony y^{t} we pay for y^{e} bare houſold beſyd menys wagys. Daube nor I may no mor w^{t} owt Coynage.

Yo^{r}

[4] J. Paſton.

11 ½ by 8 ½.

[4] Autograph. Pl. IV. N° 12.

LETTER LXXXVJ.

TO begyn God yeld yow for my hatys. the kȳg hathe ben in this contre and worchepfully receyuyd in to Norwyche and had ryght good cher and gret gyftys in thys contre wherwythe he holdyth hym ſo well content that he wyll haſtyly be her agayn and the qwen allſo w^{t} whom by my power auyſe ye ſhall com if ſo be that the terme be do by y^{t} tym y^{t} ſhe com in to y^{is} contre And as for yowr maters her ſo god help me J haue don as myche as in me was in laborȳg of theym as well to my lord

that ſhe wend (*thought*) I would have been in Norwich for to have ſeen her daughter; I beſeech you with all my heart hie you home, though ye ſhould tarry but a day, for I promiſe you your folk think that ye have forgotten them, and the moſt part of them muſt depart at Whitſuntide at the furtheſt, they will no longer abide; and as for R. Calle we cannot get half a quarter the money that we pay for the bare houſehold, beſide men's wages. Daubeney nor I may no more without coinage.

Your

[4] JOHN PASTON.

April, 1469. 9 E. IV.

LETTER LXXXVI.

To Sir John Paſton, Knight.

TO begin, God yeld (*ſhield, or preſerve*) you for my hats. The King hath been in this country, and worſhipfully received into Norwich, and had right good cheer, and great gifts in this country, wherewith he holdeth him ſo well content that he will haſtily be here again, and the Queen alſo, with whom by my poor advice ye ſhall come, if ſo be that the term be done by that time that ſhe come into this country; and as for your matters here, ſo God help me, I have done as much as in me

was,

lord [x] Reuers as to my lord [z] Scalys ſyr Iohn Wydwyll Thom's Wyngfeld and othyr abowt the kȳg And as for the lord Reuers he ſeyd to myn oncyll Will'm Fayrfax and me that he ſhold meue the kȳg to ſpek to the two dukys of Norff. and Suff. that they ſhold leue of ther tytyls of ſyche lond as wer ſyr Iohn Faſtolfs and if ſo be y^t^ they wold do nowt at the kyngs reqweſt y^t^ then the kȳg ſhold comand theym to do no waſts nor mak non aſſawtys nor frayis upon you^r^ ten'nts nor plaſys tyll ſyche tym as the lawe hathe determynd w^t^ yow or ayenſt yow y^is^ was ſeyd by hym the ſam day in the mornȳg that he depertyd at noon whedyr he meued the kȳg w^t^ it or nowt J can not ſey myn oncyll Wyll'm thynkys naye and the ſame aftyr none folowȳg J told my lord Scalys that J had ſpokyn w^t^ my lord hys fadyr in lyek forme as J haue reherſyd and axyd hym whedyr that my lord hys fadyr had ſpokyn to the kȳg or nowt and he gaue me thys anſwer that whedyr he had ſpokyn to the kȳg or nowt y^t^ the mater ſhold do well jnow Thom's Wygfeld told me and ſwore on to me that when brandon meuvyd the kȳg and beſowght hym to ſhew my lord fauour in hys maters ayenſt yow that the Kyng

As King Edward often made excurſions, and by his inſinuating manner and addreſs conciliated the minds of his ſubjects, and induced them to beſtow liberal gifts upon him, it cannot be certainly known whether this viſit to Norwich was merely to raiſe money, or whether having intimations of the diſcontent of the Earl of Warwick, the King was endeavouring to make himſelf popular, the better to encounter and defeat any deſigns of that nobleman. His manner of travelling, his attendants, and the familiar converſations which are drawn in this Letter with eaſe and preciſion, intereſt the reader as well as delineate the manners of the times.

We find the Duke of Glouceſter accompanied the King, but we hear nothing of the Duke of Clarence, he moſt probably was at this very inſtant with the Earl of Warwick, forming thoſe plans which ſoon after for a time replaced Henry upon the throne.—Edward's converſation with William Paſton was certainly very proper, and becoming a King,

was, in labouring of them, as well to my Lord [1] Rivers as to my Lord [2] Scales, Sir John Wydville, Thomas Wingfield and others about the King; and as for the Lord Rivers, he ſaid to my Uncle William, Fairfax, and me, that he ſhould move the King to ſpeak to the two Dukes of Norfolk and Suffolk, that they ſhould leave of their titles of ſuch land as were Sir John Faſtolf's, and if ſo be that they would do nought at the King's requeſt, that then the King ſhould command them to do no waſte, nor make none aſſaults nor frays upon your tenants nor places, till ſuch time as the law hath determined with you or againſt you; this was ſaid by him the ſame day in the morning that he departed at noon; whether he moved the King with it or not I cannot ſay, my Uncle William thinks nay; and the ſame afternoon following I told my Lord Scales that I had ſpoken with my Lord his Father, in like form as I have rehearſed, and aſked him whether that my Lord his Father had ſpoken to the King or not, and he gave me this anſwer, that whether he had ſpoken to the King or not, that the matter ſhould do well enough.

Thomas Wingfield told me, and ſwore unto me, that when Brandon moved the King, and beſought him to ſhew my Lord favour in his matters againſt you, that the King ſaid unto him

King, deſirous that juſtice ſhould be done according to the law; for what can ſhew this intention more ſtrongly than the following words, "I will neither treat nor ſpeak for him, but I will let the law proceed."

His converſation likewiſe with Brandon, was both manly and ſpirited.

[1] Richard Wydville, Earl Rivers, father to the Queen, was at this time Lord Treaſurer. This nobleman and his eldeſt ſon Sir John Wydville, were in Auguſt following both beheaded at Northampton, by a riotous mob, headed by one Robert of Riddeſdale.

[2] Anthony Wydville, Lord Scales, was ſecond ſon to the Earl Rivers, and had been ſummoned to parliament in right of his wife, the daughter and rich heir of the late Lord Scales.

Kyng ſeyd on to hym ayen brandon thow thou can begyll the dwk of Norff and bryng hym abow the thombe as thow lyſt J let the wet thow ſhalt not do me ſo for J undyrſtand thy fals delȳg well jnow And he ſeyd on to hym more ouer that if my lord of Norff. left not of hys hold of that mater that brandon ſhold repent itt eu^{r}y vayn in hys hert for he told hym that he knew well jnow that he myght reauyll my lord of Norff. as he wold and if my lord dyd eny thȳg that wer Contrary to hys lawys the kȳg told hym he knew well jnow that it was by no bodys menys but by hys and thus he depertyd fro the kȳg Jt' as by wordys the lord Scalys and S^{r} John Wydwyll tok tendyr yo^{r} maters mor then the lord Reuers It' Syr Iohn Wydvyll told me when he was on horſbak at the kȳgs depertȳg that the kȳg had comandyd brandon of p'poſe to ryd forthe fro Norwych to Lyne for to tak a Concluſyon in yo^{r} mater for yow And he bad me y^{t} J ſhold caſt no dowghtys but y^{t} ye ſhold haue yo^{r} entent and ſo dyd the lord Scalys alſo and when y^{t} J preyd them at eny tyme to ſhew ther fauor to yo^{r} mater they anſwerd that it was ther mater as well as yo^{rs} conſyderȳg the [3] alyans betwyx yow. Comon w^{t} Jakys Hawt and he ſhall tell yow what langage was ſpekyn betwen the duk of Suff Confell and hym and me it is to long to wryght but J promyſe yow ye ar be held to Iakys for he ſparyd not to ſpek Jt' the kyng rod thorow Heylyſdon waren towads Walſ ȳgh'm and Thom's Wyngfeld promyſyd me that he wold fynd the menys that my lord of [4] Glowſeſtyr and hym

[3] This refers to the contract between Sir John Paſton and Anne Hawte.

ſylf

again, "Brandon, though thou canſt beguile the Duke of Norfolk, and bring him about (*thy*) thumb as thou liſt, I let thee weet thou ſhalt not do me ſo; for I underſtand thy falſe dealing well enough." And he ſaid unto him, moreover that if my Lord of Norfolk left not of his hold of that matter, that Brandon ſhould repent it, every vein in his heart, for he told him that he knew well enough that he might rule my Lord of Norfolk as he would, and if my Lord did any thing that were contrary to his laws, the King told him he knew well enough that it was by nobody's means but by his, and thus he departed from the King.

Item, as by words, the Lord Scales and Sir John Wydville took tender your matters more than the Lord Rivers.

Item, Sir John Wydville told me, when he was on horſeback at the King's departing, that the King had commanded Brandon of purpoſe to ride forth from Norwich to Lynn, for to take a concluſion in your matter for you; and he bad me that I ſhould caſt no doubts but that ye ſhould have your intent, and ſo did the Lord Scales alſo; and when that I prayed them at any time to ſhew their favour to your matter, they anſwered that it was their matter as well as yours, conſidering the [3] alliance betwixt you.

Commune with Jakys Hawte, and he ſhall tell you what language was ſpoken between the Duke of Suffolk's counſel, and him, and me; it is too long to write, but I promiſe you ye are beholden to Jakys, for he ſpared not to ſpeak.

Item, the King rode through Helleſdon Warren towards Walſingham, and Thomas Wingfield promiſed me that he would find the means that my Lord of [4] Glouceſter and himſelf both

[4] Richard, Duke of Glouceſter, afterwards King Richard III.

ſylf bothe ſhold ſhew the kȳg the [5] loge y^t was breke down and alſo y^t they wold tell hym of y^e brekȳg down of y^e plaſe. Contrary to thys maters and all the Comfort that J had of my lord Scalys S^r John Wydvyll and Thom's Wȳgfeld myn oncyll Wyll'm ſethe that y^e kȳg told hym hys owne mowthe when he had redyn for by the loge in Heylyſdon waren that he ſuppoſyd as well y^t it myght fall downe by the ſelf as be plukyd downe for if it had be plukyd down he ſeyd y^t we myght haue put in ou^r byllys of it wehn hys jugys ſat on the oyeer det^rmyner in Norwyche he beȳg ther And then myn oncyll ſeythe how that he anſwerd the kȳg that ye truſtyd to hys good grace that he ſhold ſet yow thorow w^t both y^e dwkys by mene of trete and he ſeythe y^t the kȳg anſwerd hym that he wold neythyr tret nor ſpek for yow but for to let the lawe proced and ſo he ſeyth that they depertyd. And by my trowthe and my lord treſorer encorage you not more than he dyd us her ye ſhall haue but eſy help as on y^t party Wherfor labor yo^r maters effectually for by my trowthe it is nedy for for all ther wordys of pleſur J cannot undyrſtand what ther labor in thys Contre hathe don good wherfor be not ouyr ſwyft tyll ye be ſwyr of yo^r lond but labor ſore y^e lawe for by my trowthe tyll that be paſſyd w^t yow ye get but eſy help as I can undyrſtand J had w^t me on day at den^r in my modyrs plaſe ſhe beȳg owt the lord ſcalys S^r John Wydvyll S^r John Haward Nicolas Haward Iohn of Parr Thom's Garnet feſtnx cheyny truſſell y^e knyghts ſon Thom's boleyn q'p^rpter

[5] For a full account of the miſchief here done, ſee Letter LVIII. p. 226.
Autograph. Pl. xxv. N° 21. Seal, a Fleur de Lys and Annulet. Pl. xiv. N° 22.

Brampton

ſhould ſhew the King the [5] Lodge that was broken down, and alſo that they would tell him of the breaking down of the place. Contrary to theſe matters, and all the comfort that I had of my Lord Scales, Sir John Wydville, and Thomas Wingfield, my Uncle William ſaith, that the King told him (*with*) his own mouth, when he had ridden forth by the Lodge in Helleſdon Warren, that he ſuppoſed as well that it might fall down by the ſelf, as be plucked down, for if it had been plucked down, he ſaid that we might have put in our bills of it, when his Judges ſat on the Oyer and Determiner in Norwich, he being there; and then my Uncle ſaith how that he anſwered the King, that ye truſted to his good grace that he ſhould ſet you through with both the Dukes, by mean of treaty, and he ſaith that the King anſwered him that he would neither treat nor ſpeak for you, but for to let the law proceed, and ſo he ſaith that they departed; and by my troth and *(if)* my Lord Treaſurer encourage you not more than he did us here, ye ſhall have but eaſy help as on that party, wherefore labour your matters effectually, for by my troth it is needy for, for all their words of pleaſure, I cannot underſtand what their labour in this country hath done good; wherefore be not over ſwift till ye be ſure of your land, but labour ſore the law, for by my troth till that be paſſed with you, ye get but eaſy help as I can underſtand.

I had with me one day at dinner in my Mother's place, ſhe being out, the Lord Scales, Sir John Wydville, Sir John Howard, Nicholas Howard, John of Parr, Thomas Garnet, Feſtus Cheyney, Truſſel, the Knight's Son, Thomas Boleyn, qua propter,

Brampton Barnard and Brom Perſe howſe W Tonſtale Lewes Debretayll and othyr and mad hem good cher ſo as they held them Content. Jt'm my lord of Norff. gaue Bernard Broom nor me no gownys at thys ſeſon Wherfor J awaytyd not on hym notw^{t}ſtandȳg J ofyrd my ſeruyſe for y^{t} ſeſon to my lady but it was refuſyd I wot by auyſe Wherfor I p'poſe no more to do ſo as for Bernard Barney Broom and W Calthorp ar ſworn my lord of Glowſetyrs men but J ſtand yet at large not w^{t}ſtandȳg my lord Scalys ſpok to me to be w^{t} the kȳg but J mad no p'mes ſo to be for J told hym y^{t} I was not woorthe a groote w^{t}owt yow and therfor J wold mak no promes to nobody tyll they had yo^{r} good wyll fyrſt and ſo we depertyd. It was told me y^{t} ther was owt a preve ſeall for yow to attend upon the kȳg Northeward and if it be ſo J thynk v^{r}yly it is do to haue yow fro London be craft y^{t} ye ſhold not labor y^{or} maters to a Concluſyon thys terme but put them delaye J pray yow p^{r}vey yow on it to be at hom as ſone as the terme is doone for be god J take gret hurt for myn abſence in dyuers plaſys and the moſt part of yo^{r} men at Caſt^{r} wyll deperte w^{t}owt abod and ye be not at hom w^{t}in thys fortnyght J pray yow bryng hom poynts and laſys of ſylk for yow and me.

J. P.

11 ½ by 17. A whole Sheet.
Paper Mark,
Bull's Head and Star.
Pl. xxii. N° 15.

(*in ſhort*) Brampton, Bernard, and Brown, Perſe Howſe, W. Tonſtal, Lewis de Bretayl, and others, and made them good cheer, ſo as they held them content.

Item, my Lord of Norfolk gave Bernard, Broom, nor me no gowns at this ſeaſon, wherefore I awaited not on him, notwithſtanding I offered my ſervice for that ſeaſon to my Lady, but it was refuſed, I wot by advice; wherefore I purpoſe no more to do ſo. As for Bernard, Barney, Broom, and W. Calthorpe are ſworn my Lord of Glouceſter's men, but I ſtand yet at large, notwithſtanding my Lord Scales ſpoke to me to be with the King, but I made no promiſe ſo to be, for I told him that I was not worth a groat without you, and therefore I would make no promiſe to nobody till they had your good will firſt, and ſo we departed.

It was told me that there was out a Privy Seal for you to attend upon the King northward; and if it be ſo, I think verily it is done to have you from London by craft, that ye ſhould not labour your matters to a concluſion this term, but put them (*in*) delay. I pray you purvey you on it, to be at home as ſoon as the term is done, for by God I take great hurt for mine abſence in divers places, and the moſt part of your men at Caiſter will depart without abode, and *(if)* ye be not at home within this fortnight. I pray you bring home points and laces of ſilk for you and me.

JOHN PASTON.

1469. 9 E. IV.

LET-

LETTER LXXXIJ.

SYR pleſyth it to undyrſtand that J conceyue by yo^r lettyr whyche y^t ye ſent me by Jwde y^t ye haue herd of R. C. labor whyche he makyth by ou^r ungracyous ſuſtyrs aſſent but wher as they wryet that they haue my good wyll ther in ſauȳg yo^r reu^rence y^cy falſly lye of it for they neuer ſpake to me of y^t mater ner non othyr body in ther name louell axyd me onys a qweſtyon whedyr y^t I undyrſtood how it was betwyx R C and my ſuſtyr J can thynk y^t it was by Callys menys for when J axyd hym whedyr C deſyird hym to meue me y^t qweſtyon or not he wold haue gotyn it aweye by humys and by hays but I wold not ſo be anſweryd Wherfor at y^e leſt he told me y^t hys oldeſt ſone deſyird hym to ſpere whedyr y^t R C wes ſwyr of hyr or nowt for he ſeyd y^t he knew a good maryage for hyr but J wot he lyeyd for he is hole w^t R Cale in y^t mater wherfor to y^e entent y^t he nor they ſholl pyck no comfort of me J anſwerd hym y^t and my fadyr whom god aſoyle wer a lyue and had conſentyd ther to and my modyr and ye bothe he ſhold neu^r haue

On the back of this Letter is written, "p^ro marritag. int^r R̄icm Call & Marg^ram "Paſton."

"A pleaſaunt lr̄e to Sir J. Paſton, from his brother J. Paſton, wherin the ſtoutneſs of "Sir John is ſomwhat declared."

The ſtoutneſs, or rather family pride, both of Sir John Paſton and his brother, are diſcovered in this Letter, in the behaviour of the one to the Duke of Norfolk, and in the diſdain which the other ſhewed to the idea of his ſiſter's marriage with a perſon in trade.

Richard Calle has been often mentioned in the courſe of theſe Letters, and he ſeems to have been a confidential friend of the family. This however ſeems in the opinion of J. Paſton by no means to have been ſufficient to have authoriſed his pretenſions to become the huſband of his ſiſter.

my

LETTER LXXXVII.

To Sir John Paſton, Knight.

SIR, pleaſeth it to underſtand, that I conceive, by your Letter which that ye ſent me by Jude, that ye have heard of Richard Calle's labour which he maketh by our ungracious ſiſter's aſſent, but whereas they write that they have my good will therein, ſaving your reverence, they falſly lie of it, for they never ſpake to me of that matter, nor none other body in their name. Lovell aſked me once a queſtion, whether that I underſtood how it was betwixt R^d^ Calle and my ſiſter; I can think that it was by Calle's means, for when I aſked him whether Calle deſired him to move me that queſtion or not, he would have gotten it away by hums and by haas, but I would not ſo be anſwered; wherefore at the laſt he told me that his eldeſt ſon deſired him to ſpere (*inquire*) whether that Richard Calle were ſure of her or not, for he ſaid that he knew a good marriage for her, but I wot he lied, for he is whole with Richard Calle in that matter; wherefore to that intent that he nor they ſhould pick no comfort of me, I anſwered him, that and (*if*) my Father, whom God aſſoil! were alive, and had conſented thereto, and my Mother, and ye both, he ſhould never have my good will

We here ſee the origin of the Duke of Norfolk's claim to Caiſter to have ariſen from his ſuppoſed purchaſe of it from two of Sir John Faſtolf's Executors; this claim he purſued, and in a few months after the writing of this Letter, beſieged the place in form, having been, I preſume, refuſed a peaceable entry by John Paſton, who defended it for his brother, and in which defence Dawbeney and others loſt their lives.

The Letter is curious, and written in ſuch an eaſy and familiar ſtyle as greatly to intereſt the reader in its contents.

Autograph. Pl. xxv. N° 21.

my good wyll for to make my ſuſtyr to ſelle kandyll and muſtard in Framlȳgh'm and y^us^ wythe mor whyche wer to longe to wryet to you we dep^r^tyd and wher as it pleſythe you in yo^r^ lettyr to crye me mercy for y^t^ ye ſent me not ſyche ger as I ſent yow mony for J crye yow mercy y^t^ I was ſo lewde to encomber yow w^t^ eny ſo ſympyll a mater Conſyderȳg the grette maters and weyghty y^t^ ye haue to doo but need Compellyd me for in thys Contre is no ſyche ſtuffe as I ſent to yow for alſo wher as it pleſyth yow to ſend to Rychard Calle to delyuer me monye ſo god help me J wyll non axe hym for my ſylfe nor non had J of hym nor of non othyr man but of myne owne ſyne ye depertyd but y^t^ lytyll y^t^ I myght forbere of myne owne I haue delyu^r^yd to Dawbeney for howſold and pay it for yow in menys wagys and ther for who eu^r^ ſendys yow word y^t^ I haue ſpent yow eny mony ſyne ye went hens they muſt geue yow an othyr Reknȳg ſauȳg in met and drynk for I eete lyek an horſe of p'poſe to eete yow owte at the dorys but y^t^ nedythe not for ye com not w^t^in them wherfor ſo god help me the felauſhep her thynkys y^t^ ye haue forgetyn us alle wherfor and eny thȳg be ille rewlyd when ye come home wyet it yo^r^ ſelfe for defawt of ou^r^ſyght. Alſo I undyrſtand for v'ry ſeteyn and it is ſent me ſo woord owt of my lordys howſe that thys pentcoſt is my lordys conſell at Framlȳgh'm and they p'poſe thys week and the next to hold Coortys her at Caſt^r^ and at all othyr man^r^s y^t^ wer S^r^ John F. and p'chaſyd of Yelu^r^ton and of ſyr T. H. whom god aſoyle and

how

for to make my Siſter to ſell candle and muſtard in Framlingham, and thus, with more which were too long to write to you, we departed.

And whereas it pleaſeth you in your Letter to cry me mercy, for that ye ſent me not ſuch geer as I ſent you money for; I cry you mercy that I was ſo lewd (*troubleſome*) to encumber you with any ſo ſimple a matter, conſidering the great matters and weighty that ye have to do; but need compelled me, for in this country is no ſuch ſtuff as I ſent to you for.

Alſo, whereas it pleaſeth you to ſend to Richard Calle to deliver me money, ſo God help me, I will none aſk him for myſelf, nor none had I of him, nor of none other man but of mine own ſince ye departed, but that little that I might forbear (*ſpare*) of mine own, I have delivered to Dawbeney for houſehold, and paid it for you in men's wages, and therefore whoever ſendeth you word that I have ſpent you any money ſince ye went hence, they muſt give you another reckoning, ſaving in meat and drink, for I eat like an horſe, of purpoſe to eat you out at the doors, but that needeth not for you come not within them, wherefore, ſo God help me, the fellowſhip here thinks that ye have forgotten us all, wherefore and (*if*) any thing be ill ruled when ye come home wyet (*blame*) it yourſelf for default of overſight.

Alſo, I underſtand for very certain, and it is ſent me ſo word out of my Lord's houſe, that this Pentecoſt (*Whitſuntide*) is my Lord's Counſel at Framlingham, and they purpoſe this week and the next to hold courts here at Caiſter, and at all other manors that were Sir John Faſtolf's, purchaſed of Yelverton and of Sir Thomas Howys, whom God aſſoil, and how that my demeaning

how that my demenȳg ſholbe it is to late to ſend to yow for auyſe wherfor and J do well J axe no thank and if I do ille J pray yow leythe the defawt on ou^r lytyll wyte but J p'poſe to uſe the fyrſt poynt of hawkȳg to hold faſt and J maye but ſo god help me and they myght pulle downe y^e howſe on ou^r hedys J wyet hem not whyche J truſt to god to help hem from For by god that bowght me the beſt Erle in Jnglond wold not dele ſo w^t my lord and my lady as ye do w^towt makȳg of ſome menys to them ſo god help me whoſo eu^r auyſe yow to do ſo he is not yo^r frend And I may J truſt to God to ſe yow abowght Mydſom^r or befor. For in good feythe J wene ye p'poſe yow y^t it ſhall be Eſtern er ye Come hom for all yo' ſerv'nts her wen that ye p'poſe ne more to dele w^t them but to leue hem her in oſtage to my lord of Norfolk Alſo ſyr J pray yow p^rvey what Jne y^t my brodyr Edmund ſhall be in for he loſythe ſore hys tyme her J promyſe yow J pray yow ſend me word by the next meſſenger y^t Comyth and I ſhall eythyr ſend hym or brȳg hym up w^t me to London.

Alſo Syr we pore ſanz deners of Caſtr have brook iij or iiij ſtelle bowys wherfor we beſeche yow and ther be eny maker of ſteele bowys in London whyche is v^ry kūnȳg y^t ye wyll ſend me woord and I ſhall ſend yow the bowys y^t be broken, whyche be yo^r owne greet bowe and Roberd Jackſonys bowe and Iohon Pampȳgs bowe thes iij have kaſt ſo many calvys y^t they ſhall nev^r caſt q^w arellys tyll they be new mad I praye yow fynd the menys

that

ſhall be, it is too late to ſend to you for advice, wherefore, and (*if*) I do well I aſk no thank, and if I do ill, I pray you lay the default on over little wit, but I purpoſe to uſe the firſt point of hawking, to hold faſt and (*if*) I may; but ſo God help me, and (*if*) they might pull down the houſe on our heads, I wyet (*blame*) them not, which I truſt to God to keep them from; for by God that bought me, the beſt Earl in England would not deal ſo with my Lord and my Lady as ye do, without making of ſome means to them, ſo God help me, whoſoever adviſe you to do ſo, he is not your friend; and I may, I truſt to God to ſee you about Midſummer or before, for in good faith I ween ye purpoſe you that it ſhall be Eaſter ere ye come home, for all your ſervants here ween that ye purpoſe no more to deal with them, but to leave them here in hoſtage to my Lord of Norfolk.

Alſo, Sir, I pray you purvey what Inn that my brother Edmund ſhall be in, for he loſeth ſore his time here I promiſe you; I pray you ſend me word by the next meſſenger that cometh, and I ſhall either ſend him or bring him up with me to London.

Alſo, Sir, we poor ſans deniers (*moneyleſs men*) of Caiſter have broken three or four ſteel bows, wherefore we beſeech you and there be any maker of ſteel-bows in London which is very cunning, that ye will ſend me word, and I ſhall ſend you the bows that be broken, which be your own great bow, and Robert Jackſon's bow, and John Pamping's bow; theſe three have caſt ſo many calvys, that they ſhall never caſt quarrels (*ſquare-headed arrows*) till they be new made.

I pray

that my Lord have ſome reſonable meane profyrd ſo y^t^ he and my lady may undyrſtand that ye deſyr to have hys good lordſhep I promyſe yow it ſhall do yow eaſe and yo^r^ teñuts bothe and God preſerve.

J. P.

13 ½ by 6.

LETTER LXXXIII.

MYN owne lady and maſtres and be for god very trewe wyff I w^t^ herte full ſorowefull recomaunde me unto you as he that can not be mery nor nought ſhalbe tyll it be otherwiſe w^t^ us then it is yet For thys lyf y^t^ we lede nough is nowther pleſur to godde nor to the worlde Conſederyng the gret bonde of matrymonye y^t^ is made be twix us and alſo the greete loue y^t^ hath be and as J truſte yet is be twix us and as on my parte neu^r^ gretter wherfor J beſeche almyghty godde Comfort us as ſone as it pleſyth hym for we y^t^ ought of very ryght to be mooſt to gether ar mooſt aſondre me ſemyth it is a m^ll^ yerē a goo ſon y^t^ I ſpeke w^t^ you J had leu^r^ thenne all the goode in the worlde J myght be w^t^ you alas alas goode lady full litell remembre they what they doo y^t^ kepe us thus aſunder iiij tymes in the yere ar they a curſid that lette matrymonye it cauſith many men

I pray you find the means that my Lord may have ſome reaſonable mean proffered, ſo that he and my Lady may underſtand that ye deſire to have his good Lordſhip; I promiſe you it ſhall do you eaſe and your tenants both, and God preſerve (*you*).

JOHN PASTON.

Caiſter, Whitſuntide,
May, 1469. 9 E. IV.
Whitſunday was on the 21ſt May, in 1469.

LETTER LXXXVIII.

To Miſtreſs Margery Paſton.

MINE own Lady and Miſtreſs, and, before God, very true wife, I with heart full ſorrowful. recommend me unto you, as he that cannot be merry, nor nought ſhall be till it be otherwiſe with us then it is yet, for this life that we lead now is neither pleaſure to God nor to the world, conſidering the great bond of matrimony that is made betwixt us, and alſo the great love that hath been, and as I truſt, yet is betwixt us, and as on my part never greater; wherefore I beſeech Almighty God comfort us as ſoon as it pleaſeth him, for we that ought of very right to be moſt together, are moſt aſunder, me ſeemeth it is a thouſand year ago ſince that I ſpake with you, I had lever (*rather*) than all the good in the world I might be with you; alas, alas! good Lady, full little remember they what they do that keep us thus aſunder, four times in the year are they accurſed that let (*hinder*) matrimony; it cauſeth many men to deem

to deme in hem they haue large conſyence in other maters as wele as herin but what lady ſuffre as ye haue do and make you as mery as ye can for I wys lady at the longe wey godde woll of hys ryght wyſnes helpe hys ſ[r]unts that meane truly and wolde leue accordyng to hes lawys &c. J undreſtende lady ye haue hadde aſmoche ſorwe for me as any gentelwoman hath hadde in the worlde aſwolde godd all that ſorwe y[t] ye haue hadde had reſted upon me ſo y[t] ye hadde be diſcharged of it for J wis lady it is to me a deethe to her y[t] ye be entreted other wiſe thene ye ought to be this is a peyneful lyfe y[t] we lede J can not leue thus w[t]oute it be a gret diſpleſure to godde Alſo like you to wete y[t] I had ſent you a lett[r] be my ladde from london and he tolde me he myght not ſpeeke w[t]you ther was made ſo gret awayte upon hym and upon you boōthe he told me Iohn Threſcher come to hym in yo[r] name and ſeide y[t] ye ſent hym to my ladde for a letter or a token weche J ſhulde haue ſent you but he truſte hym not he wold not delyu[r] hym noon after that he brought hym a rynge ſeyng y[t] ye ſent it hym comaundyng hym y[t] he ſchulde delyu[r] the lett[r] or token to hym weche J conceyue ſethen be my ladde it was not be your ſendyng it was be my maſtres

On the back of this Letter is the following memorandum, " Lrā Rici Calle Margerie " Paſton filie Johīs Paſton a'ri quā p[t]ea duxit in ux[r]em."

We cannot read this Letter without entering into the private family-concerns of the Paſtons, and however we may think with them that their daughter may have made without their knowledge and conſent an improper contract, yet we muſt pity the lover. In ancient times families intermarried more amongſt thoſe of their own rank than at preſent; the Gentry conſidered thoſe in trade as moving in a different ſphere to them; they dealt with them and required their attendance, but they ſcorned to intermarry.

The

deem in them they have large conſcience in other matters as well as herein, but what Lady ſuffer as ye have done, and make you as merry as ye can, for I wis, lady, at the long way, God will of his rightwiſeneſs help his ſervants that mean truly, and would live according to his laws, &c.

I underſtand, Lady, ye have had as much ſorrow for me as any Gentlewoman hath had in the world, as would God all that ſorrow that ye have had had reſted upon me and that ye had been diſcharged of it, for I wis, Lady, it is to me a death to hear that ye be entreated otherwiſe than ye ought to be; this is a painful life that we lead, I cannot live thus without it be a great diſpleaſure to God.

Alſo like you to weet that I had ſent you a Letter by my lad from London, and he told me he might not ſpeak with you, there was made ſo great await upon him and upon you both; he told me John Threſher come to him in your name, and ſaid that ye ſent him to my lad for a Letter or a token, which I ſhould have ſent you, but he truſt him not, he would not deliver him none; after that he brought him a ring, ſaying that ye ſent it him, commanding him that he ſhould deliver the Letter or token to him, which I conceive ſince by my lad it was not by your ſending, it was by my Miſtreſs and Sir James's advice;

The extenſion of commerce and the large fortunes raiſed by the merchants and men of buſineſs, have however broken down thoſe barriers of diſtinction; and not only the Gentleman, but the Nobleman, now often ſelect their wives from the city, and introduce into their families the daughters of thoſe, who, by their honourable and extenſive dealings in various branches of traffic, have enriched themſelves, and trained up their children to become that elevated ſituation which their beauty, their education, and their good qualities, enables them to adorn.

The picture drawn in this Letter is a true one, and gives us a much better idea of antient family matters than the moſt laboured diſquiſition of a dry hiſtorian.

Autograph. Pl. XVIII. N° 9. Seal. an Eagle's head eraſed, &c. Pl. XXIII. N° 8.

maſtres and S^r Jamys a vys Alas what meane they J ſuppoſe they deeme we be not enſuryd to gether and if they ſo doo J merveyll for thene they ar not wele aviſed remembryng the pleynes y^t I breke to my maſtres at the begynnyng and I ſuppoſe be you bothe and ye dede as ye ought to do of very ryght and if ye haue do the Contrare as J haue be enformed ye haue do ye dede nouther Concyenſly nor to the pleſure of godde w^toute ye dede it for feere and for the tyme to pleaſe ſuche as were at that tyme a boute you and if ye ſo dede it for this f^ruice it was a reſonable cauſe Conſederyng the grete and importable callyng upon y^t ye hadde and many an on trewe tale was made to you of me weche god know^t J was neu^r gylty of my ladde tolde me y^t my maſtres your mòdre axyd hym if he hadde brought any lett^r to you and many other thyngs ſhe bare hym on hande and a monge all other at the laſt ſhe ſeide to hym that J wolde not make her p'vy to the begynnyng but ſche ſuppoſyd J wolde at the endyng and as to that god know^t ſche knewe furſt of me and non other J wott not what her maſtreſchip meneth for be my trowthe ther is no gentylwoman on lyue that my herte tendreth more then it dothe her nor is lother to diſpleſe ſauyng only your p^rſon weche of very ryght I ought to tendre and loue beſte for I am bounde therto be the lawe of godde And ſo wol do whyle y^t I leue what ſo eu^r falle of it J ſupoſe And ye telle hem ſadly the trouthe they wold not dampne ther ſoules for us though I telle hem the trouthe they woll not be leue me as weele as they woll do you And ther

Alas, what mean they? I ſuppoſe they deem we be not enſured together, and if they ſo do I marvel, for then they are not well adviſed remembering the plainneſs that I brake to my Miſtreſs at the beginning, and I ſuppoſe by you both, and ye did as ye ought to do of very right, and if ye have done the contrary, as I have been informed ye have done, ye did neither concienſly (*conſcientiouſly*) nor to the pleaſure of God, without ye did it for fear, and for the time to pleaſe ſuch as were at that time about you; and if ye did it for this cauſe it was a reaſonable cauſe, conſidering the great and importable calling upon that ye had, and many an untrue tale was made to you of me, which, God know it, I was never guilty of.

My Lad told me that my Miſtreſs your mother aſked him, if he had brought any Letter to you, and many other things ſhe bare him on hand, and among all other at the laſt ſhe ſaid to him that I would not make her privy to the beginning, but ſhe ſuppoſed I would at the ending; and as to that, God know it, ſhe knew it firſt of me and none other, I wot not what her miſtreſſhip meaneth, for by my troth there is no gentlewoman alive that my heart tendereth more than it doth her, nor is loather to diſpleaſe, ſaving only your perſon, which of very right I ought to tender and love beſt, for I am bound thereto by the law of God, and ſo will do while that I live, whatſoever fall of it; I ſuppoſe and (*if*) ye tell them ſadly (*ſeriouſly*) the truth, they will not damn their ſouls for us; though I tell them the truth they will not believe me as well as they will do you, and therefore,

for goode lady at the reu^rence of godde be pleyne to hem and telle the trouthe and if they woll in no wiſe agree therto betwix God the deelf and them be it and that perell y^t we ſchuld be in J beſeche godde it may lye upon them and not upon us J am heuy and ſory to remembre ther diſpoſicon god ſende them grace to gyde all thyngs weele as wele J wolde they dede godde be ther gide and ſende them peas and reſte &c. J mervell moche y^t they ſchulde take this mater ſo heedely as J undreſtonde they doo remembryng it is in ſuche caſe as it can not be remedyed and my deſert upou eu^ry be halfe it is for to be thought ther ſhulde be non obſtacle a yenſt it And alſo the worchipfull y^t is in them is not in your mariage it is in ther owne mariage weche I beſeche godde ſende hem ſuche as may be to ther worſchip and pleſur to godde and to ther herts eaſe for ell were it gret pety maſtres J am aferde to write to you for I undreſtonde ye haue ſchewyd my lett's y^t J haue ſent you be for this tyme but J prey you lete no creatur ſe this lett^r as ſone as ye haue redde it lete it be brent for I wolde no man ſchulde ſe it in no wiſe ye had no wrytyng from me this ij yere nor J wolle not ſende you no mor therfor J remytte all this matre to your wyſdom Almyghty Jhu preſerue kepe and you your hertys deſire weche I wotte weele ſchulde be to goods pleſur &c. Thys lett^r was wreten w^t as greete peyne as eu^r wrote j thynge in my lyfe for in goode feyth I haue be ryght ſeke and yet am not veryly weele at eaſe god amend it &c.

11¾ by 16¼.
Paper Mark.
YHS. within a radiated Star of 16 points.
Pl. VIII. N° 5.

LET.

good Lady, at the reverence of God be plain to them and tell the truth, and if they will in no wiſe agree thereto, betwixt God, the Devil, and them be it, and that peril that we ſhould be in, I beſeech God it may lie upon them and not upon us; I am heavy and ſorry to remember their diſpoſition, God ſend them grace to guide all things well, as well (*as*) I would they did; God be their guide and ſend them peace and reſt, &c.

I marvel much that they ſhould take this matter ſo heedely (*cautiouſly*) as I underſtand they do, remembering it is in ſuch caſe as it cannot be remedied, and my deſert upon every behalf it is for to be thought there ſhould be none obſtacle againſt it; and alſo the worſhipful that is in them, is not in your marriage, it is in their own marriage, which I beſeech God ſend them ſuch as may be to their worſhip and pleaſure to God and to their hearts eaſe, for elſe were it great pity. Miſtreſs I am afraid to write to you for I underſtand ye have ſhewed my Letters that I have ſent you before this time; but I pray you let no creature ſee this Letter, as ſoon as ye have read it let it be burnt, for I would no man ſhould ſee it in no wiſe, ye had no writing from me this two year, nor I will not ſend you no more, therefore I remit all this matter to your wiſdom; Almighty Jeſu preſerve, keep, and (*give*) you your heart's deſire, which I wot well ſhould be to God's pleaſure, &c.

This Letter was written with as great pain as ever wrote I thing in my life, for in good faith I have been right ſick, and yet am not verily at eaſe, God amend it, &c.

RICHARD CALLE.

1469. 9 E. IV.

LET-

LETTER LXXXIX.

I Grete zow wel and ſend zow godds blyſſyng and mȳ letyng zow wete yᵗ on Thuryſday laſt was my modʳ and I wer wᵗ my lord of [1] Norwych and deſyerd hȳ yᵗ he woold no mor do in yᵉ mater towſcheyng zowʳ ſyſtʳ tyl yᵗ ze and my brother and other yᵗ wern executors to zowʳ fadʳ mythe beyn her to gedʳ for they had yᵉ rule of her as weel as I and he ſayde playnly yᵗ he had be requeryd ſo oftȳ for to exameyn her yᵗ he mythe not nor woold no longar delay yt and ſchargyd me in peyn of Curſȳg yᵗ ſche ſchuld not be deferred but yᵉ ſhe xuld a per beforn hȳ yᵗ nexte day and J ſayd pleynly yᵗ J woold nowdʳ bryng her nor ſend her and yⁿ he ſayd yᵗ he woold ſend for her hȳ ſylfe and ſchargyd yᵗ ſhe ſchuld be at her lyberte to cūe wā he ſent for her and he ſeyd be hys trowthe yᵗ he woold be as ſory for her and ſche ded not welle as he wold be and ſche wer ryth ner of hys kyn bothe for my mod ys ſake and myn and other of her frendds for he wooſt welle yᵗ her demenyng had ſtekyd ſoor at ouʳ harts my modʳ and J in formyd hȳ yᵗ we kowd neuʳ ondʳſtond be her ſayyng be no language yᵗ euʳ ſche had to hȳ yᵗ neyther of hē wer bownd to other but yᵗ they myth ſcheſe bothe yⁿ he ſeyd yᵗ he

We find by the converſation here given us between the Biſhop of Norwich, Agnes Paſton, and Margaret Paſton, that a contract of marriage had been made between Margery Paſton, the daughter of the latter, and Richard Calle, and that her family wiſhed to have a hearing in the Biſhop's court, either to diſprove it, or, if proved, to ſet it aſide. The young Lady's behaviour, and the account which both ſhe and Richard Calle give of the contract ſeem to confirm it, and obliged the Biſhop to take time to conſider of the matter before any ſentence could be pronounced; though he ſeemed to wiſh to have it in his power to adjuſt the matter to the ſatisfaction of the family.

LETTER LXXXIX.

To Sir John Paſton, Knight.

I Greet you well, and ſend you God's bleſſing and mine, letting you weet that on Thurſday laſt was, my mother and I were with my Lord of [1] Norwich, and deſired him that he would no more do in the matter touching your ſiſter, till that ye and my brother and others that were Executors to your father might be here together, for they had the rule of her as well as I; and he ſaid plainly that he had been required ſo often to examine her, that he might not, nor would no longer delay it, and charged me in pain of curſing that ſhe ſhould not be deferred, but that ſhe ſhould appear before him the next day; and I ſaid plainly that I would neither bring her nor ſend her; and then he ſaid that he would ſend for her himſelf; and charged that ſhe ſhould be at her liberty to come when he ſent for her; and he ſaid by his troth that he would be as ſorry for her, and (*if*) ſhe did not well, as he would be and (*if*) ſhe were right near of his kin, both for my mother's ſake, and mine, and other of her friends, for he wiſt well that her demeaning had ſticked ſore at our hearts.

My mother and I informed him that we could never underſtand by her ſaying, by no language that ever ſhe had to him, that neither of them were bound to other, but that they might chooſe both; then he ſaid that he would ſay to her as well as he

The expreſſions of Margaret Paſton reſpecting her daughter muſt be read with ſome allowance; we muſt conſtrue ſome of them as words of paſſion and reſentment, ariſing from her avowale of her intentions to fulfil the contract, &c.

[1] Walter Lyhert was promoted to the ſee of Norwich in 1446, and continued Biſhop till his death in 1472; he was a Prelate of great wiſdom and of a friendly diſpoſition, ever ready to compoſe differences and conciliate friends.

could,

he woold ſey to her as wele as he kowde before that he exameynd her and ſo y^{t} was told me be dyu^{r}ſe p^{r}ſones y^{t} he ded as welle and as pleynly as ſche had be rythe ner to hȳ wych wer to long to wrythe at thys tyme her aftȳ y^{e} xalle wete and hoo wer laberers ther in y^{e} [2] ſchanſeler was not ſo gylty her in as J wend he had ben On Fryday the byſchope he ſent for her be Aſchefeld and other y^{t} arn ryth ſory of her demenyng. And y^{e} byſchop ſeyd to her ryth pleynly and put her in r'mēberawns how ſhe was born wat kyn and frendds y^{t} ſche had and xuld haue mo yf ſche wer rulyd and gydyd aftyr hem and yf ſhe ded not wat rebuke and ſchame and los yt xuld be to her yf ſche wer not gydyd be thē and cauſe of forſakȳg of her for any good or helpe or kownfort y^{t} ſche xuld haue of hē and ſeyd y^{t} he had hard ſey y^{t} ſche loued ſchecheon y^{t} her frend wer not pleſyd w^{t} y^{t} ſche xuld haue and therfor he had her be ryth weel avyſyd how ſche ded and ſeyd y^{t} he woold undyrſtand y^{e} woords y^{t} ſche had ſeyd to hȳ wheyther y^{t} mad mat'mony or not and ſche r'herſyd wat ſche had ſeyd and ſeyd yf thoo wordds mad yt not ſuher ſhe ſeyd boldly y^{t} ſche wold make y^{t} ſuerher or yā ſche went thens for ſche ſeyd ſche thowgthe in her Conſchens ſche was bownd wat ſo eu^{r} y^{e} wordds wern thes leud wordds greueth me and her grandā as myche as alle y^{e} remnawnte and yā y^{e} byſchop and the ſchawnſeler bothe ſeyd y^{t} ther was neyther J ner no frend of hers wold reſeyue and yā Calle was exameynd ap^{r}te be hȳ ſylfe y^{t} her wordds and hys acordyd and the tyme and wher y^{t} xuld a be don and yā y^{e} byſchop ſayd y^{t} he ſuppoſyd y^{t} ther

[2] Dr. John Sareſſon, otherwiſe Wigenhale, was Chancellor to the Biſhop from 1435 to 1471, and had other church preferment in the Dioceſe.

xuld

could, before that he examined her; and ſo it was told me by divers perſons that he did as well and as plainly as *(if)* ſhe had been right near to him, which were too long to write at this time, hereafter ye ſhall weet, and who were labourers therein; the [a] Chancellor was not ſo guilty therein as I wend (*thought*) he had been.

On Friday the Biſhop ſent for her by Aſhfield and other that are right ſorry of her demeaning, and the Biſhop ſaid to her right plainly, and put her in remembrance how ſhe was born, what kin and friends that ſhe had, and ſhould have more if ſhe were ruled and guided after them; and if ſhe did not, what rebuke, and ſhame, and loſs ſhould be to her, if ſhe were not guided by them, and cauſe of forſaking of her for any good, or help, or comfort that ſhe ſhould have of them; and ſaid that he had heard ſay, that ſhe loved ſuch one that her friends were not pleaſed with that ſhe ſhould have, and therefore he bad her be right well adviſed how ſhe did; and ſaid that he would underſtand the words that ſhe had ſaid to him, whether it made matrimony or not, and ſhe rehearſed what ſhe had ſaid, and ſaid, if thoſe words made it not ſure, ſhe ſaid boldly, that ſhe would make it ſurer ere than ſhe went thence, for ſhe ſaid ſhe thought in her conſcience ſhe was bound whatſoever the words were; theſe lewd words grieveth me and her grandam as much as all the remanent; and then the Biſhop and the Chancellor both ſaid that there was neither I nor no friend of hers would receive (*her*).

And then Calle was examined apart by himſelf, that her words and his accorded, and the time, and where it ſhould have been done; and then the Biſhop ſaid that he ſuppoſed that there ſhould

xuld be fownd other thynggs ageyns hȳ y^t mythe cauſe y^e lettyng ther of and ther for he ſay he wold not be to haſty to geue ſentens ther upon and ſayd y^t he wold geue ou^re day tyl y^e Wednſday or Thurſday aftyr Mykylmes and ſo yt tys delayyd they woold an had her wyl p^rformyd in haſte but y^e byſchope ſeyd he woold non other wyſe yā he had ſeyd J was w^t my mod^r at her plaſe whā ſche was exameynd and wā J hard ſey what her demenȳg was J ſchargyd my ſ^runts y^t ſche xuld not be r'ſeyued in my hows I had zeue hir warnȳg ſche mythe a be war a for yf ſche had a be g'ſyows and J ſent to on or ij mor y^t they xuld not r'ſeyue her yf ſche cā ſche was browthe a geyn to my place for to a be r'ſeyued and S^r Jamys tolde thē yt browthe her y^t J had ſchargyd hē alle and ſche xuld not be r'ſeyued and ſoo my lord of Norwych hath ſet her at Roger beſts to be ther tyle y^e day befor ſay' god knowyth fule euel ageyn hys wyle and hys wyvys yf they durſt do other wyſe J ā ſory y^t they arn a cumyrd w^t her but zet J ā bett^r payed y^t ſche isther for y^e whyle ya^t ſche had ben in other place be cauſe of y^e ſadnes and good dyſpoſyſion of hys ſylfe and hys wyfe for ſche xal not be ſou'd ther to pleye y^e br'thele J pray zow and r'quer zow y^t ye take yt not penſyly for J wot wele yt gothe ryth ner zowr hart and ſo doth yt to myn and to other but r'mēbyr zow and ſo do J y^t we haue loſt of her but a brethele and ſet yt y^e les to hart for and ſche had be good w^rſo eu^r ſche had be yt xuld not aben as it is for and he wer ded at thys owyr ſhe xuld neu^r be at myn hart as ſche was as for

y^e

be found other things againſt him that might cauſe the letting thereof, and therefore he ſaid he would not be too haſty to give ſentence thereupon, and ſaid that he would give over day till the Wedneſday or Thurſday after Michaelmas, and ſo it is delayed; they would have had her will performed in haſte, but the Biſhop ſaid he would none otherwiſe than he had ſaid.

I was with my Mother at her place when ſhe was examined, and when I heard ſay what her demeaning was, I charged my Servants that ſhe ſhould not be received in mine houſe; I had given her warning, ſhe might have been ware afore, if ſhe had been gracious; and I ſent to one or two more that they ſhould not receive her if ſhe came; ſhe was brought again to my place for to have been received, and Sir James told them that brought her, that I had charged them all, and ſhe ſhould not be received; and ſo my Lord of Norwich hath ſet her at Roger Beſt's, to be there till the day before ſaid, God knoweth full evil againſt his will and his wife's, if they durſt do otherwiſe; I am ſorry that they are acumyred *(cumbered, or troubled)* with her, but yet I am better paid *(ſatisfied)* that ſhe is there for the while, than ſhe had been in other place, becauſe of the ſadneſs *(ſerioufneſs)* and good diſpoſition of himſelf and his wife, for ſhe ſhall not be ſou'd *(ſuffered, q?)* there to play the brothel; I pray you and require you that ye take it not penſily (*heavily*) for I wot well it goeth right near your heart, and ſo doth it to mine and to others, but remember you, and ſo do I, that we have loſt of her but a brethel (*a frail one*), and ſet it the leſs to heart, for and *(if)* ſhe had been good whereſoever ſhe had been, it ſhould not have been as it is, for and (*if*) he were dead at this hour, ſhe ſhould never

y devors y ze wr'te to me of J ſupoſe wat ze ment but J ſcharge zow upon my blyſſyng yt ze do not ner cauſe non other to do yt xuld offend god and zour conſchens for and ze do or cauſe for to be do god wul take vengawns ther upon ye xuld put zour ſylfe and other in gret jopte for wettyt wele ſche xal ful ſor r'pent her leudnes her aftyr and J pray god ſche mute ſoo. J pray zow for myn hard ys heſe be ze of a good Cownfort in alle thynggs J truſt god xal helpe ryth wele and I pray God ſo do in alle our maters J wuld ze toke hed yf ther weher any labor mad in ye kort of Cawntrybery for the leud mater forſayd. But yf the [3] Duke be purveyd for he and hys wyſe kowſel xalle leſe thys cūtre yt is told me yt he ſeythe yt he wul not ſpar to do yt he is purpoſyd for no Duke in Ynglond god helpe at nede.

11 ½ by 17. A whole Sheet.

Paper Mark,
Bull's Head and Star.
Pl. xxii. N° 13.

[3] This I ſuppoſe relates to the Duke of Norfolk; the other Duke moſt probably means either the Duke of Clarence or of Suffolk.

be at mine heart as ſhe was; as for the divorce that ye write to me of, I ſuppoſe what ye meant, but I charge you upon my bleſſing that ye do not, nor cauſe none other to do, that ſhould offend God and your conſcience, for and (*if*) ye do, or cauſe for to be done, God will take vengeance thereupon, and ye ſhould put yourſelf and others in great jeopardy, for wot it well, ſhe ſhall full ſore repent her lewdneſs hereafter, and I pray God ſhe might; ſo I pray you for mine heart's eaſe be ye of a good comfort in all things; I truſt God ſhall help right well, and I pray God ſo do in all our matters; I would ye took heed if there were any labour made in the court of Canterbury for the lewd matter aforeſaid.

But if the [3] Duke be purvcyed for, he and his wiſe counſel ſhall leave this country; it is told me that he ſaith that he will not ſpare to do that he is purpoſed, for no Duke in England. God help at need.

Norwich,
Before Michaelmas,
1469. 9 E. IV.

On the back of the Letter in an ancient hand is written, "A Lrē to Sr. Io. Paſton "from his mother, touching the good will between hir daughter Margery P. and Ric. "Call, who were after maryed together."

It ſeems from this memorandum that the contract of marriage was proved and confirmed, and that in conſequence of it a marriage took place between the parties.

LET-

LETTER XC.

To Sr John Paſton
be this deliu'ed in haſt.

I Grete you wele and ſend you godds blyſſyng and myn letyng you wete that Sr Iohn Heuenyngh'm was at Norwich this day and ſpake wt me at my moders but he wuld not yt it ſhuld be underſtand for my lord hath mad hym on of the Capteynes at Cayſtr of ye pepill yt ſhuld kepe the wetche abaught the place yt no mann ſhuld ſocor them if my lord deprted J deſired hym to favor them if any man ſhuld come to them fro me or you and he wuld not gr'unte it but he deſired me to write to you to underſtand if that my lord myght be mevyd to fynde ſuerte to recompenſe you all wrongs and ye wuld ſuffre hym to entre peſibilly. And the lawe aftr his entre wuld deme it you be ye avyſed what anſwer ye wuld yeve It' ſith that yt I ſpake wt hym and the ſame day a feythfull frende of owrs came on to me and mevyd me if yt my lord myght be entreted to ſuffre endifferent men to kepe the place and take the p'fites for bothe prties till ye right be detrmyned be the lawe and my lord for his prte and ye for your prte to fynde ſufficient ſuerte yt you nowther ſhuld vex lette ner trobilled the ſeid endifferent men to kepe peſibiley the poſſeſſion of ye ſeid place and to take ye p'fights on to the tyme to be detr-

The diſpute concerning the poſſeſſion of Caiſter now becoming a matter of great conſequence, and the ſiege of it being determined upon by the Duke of Norfolk, if ſome conciliatory plan could not be deviſed, Margaret Paſton informs Sir John of the different ſchemes propoſed; theſe ſhe wiſhes him throughly to conſider, and, if none ſhould be adopted,

LETTER XC.

To Sir John Paſton, be this delivered in haſte.

I Greet you well, and ſend you God's bleſſing and mine, letting you weet that Sir John Heveningham was at Norwich this day, and ſpake with me at my Mother's, but he would not that it ſhould be underſtood, for my Lord hath made him one of the Captains at Caiſter, of the people that ſhould keep the watch about the place, that no man ſhould ſuccour them; if my Lord departed. I deſired him to favour them, if any man ſhould come to them from me or you, and he would not grant it, but he deſired me to write to you to underſtand, if that my Lord might be moved to find ſurety to recompence you all wrongs, and ye would ſuffer him to enter peaceably, and the law after his entry would deem it you; be ye adviſed what anſwer ye would give.

Item, ſince that I ſpake with him and the ſame day, a faithful friend of ours came unto me and moved me, if that my Lord might be intreated to ſuffer indifferent men to keep the place, and take the profits for both parties till the right be determined by the law; and my Lord for his part, and ye for your part, to find ſufficient ſurety that you neither ſhould vex, let, nor trouble the ſaid indifferent men to keep peaceably the poſſeſſion of the ſaid place, and to take the profits unto the time it be determined

adopted, at all events to ſuccour his friends there. Sir John Heveningham, though engaged againſt the Paſtons, ſhews himſelf not only a friend to them, but a faithful Officer to his commander the Duke of Norfolk.

Autograph. Pl. II. N° 25.

det^rmyned be y^e lawe to his behowe y^t the lawe demeth it And y^e ſeid p^rſones y^t ſo endifferently kepe poſſeſſion befor ther entre into the ſeid place to fynde alſo ſufficient ſuerte to anſwer the p^rte y^t the lawe demeth it to of y^e p^rfits duryng ther poſſeſſion and to ſuffre hym peſſibilly to entre or any in his name wham ſo eu^r thei be required be the p^rte to whom the right is demyd of all y^es p^rmyſes ſend werd how ye will be demened be as good advyſe as ye can gete and make no lenger delay for thei muſt neds haue haſty ſoco^r that be in the place for thei be ſore hurt and haue non help And if thei haue haſty help it ſhall be the gretteſt wurchip y^t eu^r ye had and if y^ei be not holpen it ſhall be to you a gret diſwurchep and loke neu^r to haue favo^r of yo^r neybors and frends but if this ſpede wele y'for pretend it in yo^r mend and p^ruey y^rfor in haſt how ſo eu^r ye do God kepe you and ſend yow the vittory of yo^r elmyſe and geve yow and vs al g'ce to leve in peas Wretyn on Sent Gyles evyn at ix of y^e belle at nyght. Robyn came home yeſt^r evyn aud he brought me nowther writyng from you ner good anſwer of this mater which grevyth me right ill y^t I haue ſent you ſo many meſſangers and haue ſo febill anſwers ageyn.

Be yo^r moder.

11 ½ by 8.

9

LET.

by the law to his behalf, that the law deemeth it; and the ſaid perſons, that ſo indifferently keep poſſeſſion, before their entry into the ſaid place, to find alſo ſufficient ſurety to anſwer the party that the law deemeth it to, of the profits during their poſſeſſion, and to ſuffer him peaceably to enter, or any in his name, whenſoever they be required by the party to whom the right is deemed of all theſe premiſes; ſend me word how ye will be demeaned by as good advice as ye can get, and make no longer delay, for they muſt needs have haſty ſuccour that be in the place, for they be ſore hurt, and have none help, and if they have haſty help it ſhall be the greateſt worſhip that ever ye had, and if they be not holpen it ſhall be to you a great diſworſhip; and look never to have favour of your neighbours and friends, but if (*unleſs*) this ſpeed well; therefore prend (*conſider*) it in your mind, and purvey therefore in haſte; howſoever ye do, God keep you, and ſend you the victory of your enemies, and give you and us all grace to live in peace. Written on Saint Giles's even, at nine of the bell at night.

Robin came home yeſter even, and he brought me neither writing from you, nor good anſwer of this matter, which grieveth me right ill that I have ſent you ſo many meſſengers, and have ſo feeble anſwers again.

By your Mother

MARGARET PASTON.

Norwich, Friday,
1 September, 1469.
9 E. IV.

LETTER XCJ.

To Maſtyr Wryttyll.

MAST[r] Wryttyll J recomande me to yow beſechyng yow hertely as myn holl truſt is in yow that ye doo yowr devoyr to Contynew trews tyll Fryday or Sat[r]day in the mornyng by whych tyme J hope the maſſang[r] ſhall come and that ye be not dryuen to take an appoyntment if ye kan undreſtand by any lyklyed that itt be able to be abydyn and recyſtyd and that ye fele my brotherys dyſpoſycon therin as my truſt is in yow. prayng yow to remembre that it reſtythe as god helpe me on all my well. For as God helpe me I hadd leuyr the place wer brennyd my brother and ſeruants ſauyd than the beſt appoyntment that euyr ye and I comonyd of ſcholde be my goode wyll be takyn if this maſſage from the Kynge may reſkwe it. And if it be ſo that my lorde be remevyd by the Kynges comandement whyche reſtythe w[t] hys hono[r] J may in tyme to kome do hym ſervyſe as ſchall recompence any grodge or dyſpleſur that he euyr had or hathe to me or myn and ye if it the rather by your wyſdam and poleſye the moene above wryten may be hadd ſchall be as ſewr of the ſervyce of my trewe brother and ſer-

Maſter Writtill, or Wrettell, the perſon to whom this Letter is addreſſed, was a Servant of the Duke of Clarence, and appears to have been ſent down to endeavour at an accommodation between the beſiegers and the beſieged, during the truce which was then taken.

Sir John Paſton, however, ſeems fearful leſt any appointment ſhould be taken detrimental to his intereſt, though at the ſame time he would ſubmit to any thing rather than that his Brother's and his Servant's lives ſhould be endangered.

uantys

LETTER XCI.

To Maſter Writtill.

MASTER Writtill, I recommend me to you, beſeeching you heartily, as mine whole truſt is in you, that ye do your devoir to continue truce till Friday or Saturday in the morning, by which time I hope the meſſenger ſhall come, and that ye be not driven to take an appointment if ye can underſtand by any likelihood that it be able to be avoided and reſiſted, and that ye feel my Brother's diſpoſition therein, as my truſt is in you, praying you to remember that it reſteth, as God help me, on all my weal; for, as God help me, I had lever *(rather)* the place were brenned *(burnt)*, my Brother and Servants ſaved, than the beſt appointment, that ever ye and I communed of, ſhould by my good will be taken, if this meſſage from the King may reſcue it; and if it be ſo, that my Lord be removed by the King's commandment, which reſteth with his honour, I may in time to come do him ſervice, as ſhall recompence any grudge or diſpleaſure that he ever had, or hath to me or mine; and ye, if it the rather by your wiſdom and policy the mean above written may be had, ſhall be as ſure of the ſervice of my

John, Duke of Norfolk, claimed this Manor and Caſtle of Caiſter, under an agreement for a purchaſe which had paſſed between him and Sir William Yelverton, and Thomas Howys, two of Sir John Faſtolf's Executors.

It does not appear that they could legally convey this Eſtate, as, by Sir John Faſtolf's Will, it had been left for charitable uſes, and towards founding and endowing a College, &c. &c.

Autograph. Pl. IV. N° 9.

uantys and me as ye kan devyſe by my trowthe for in goode feythe thys mat'r ſtykyth mor nyghe myn hart and me than I kan wryght on to yow. and to my brother and fr̄uānts mor ner than as God knowyth they wot off. Wherfor Maſtr Wryttyll all owre welfare reſtyth in yow beſechyng yow to remembre it. For thys matr is to all uſſe eyther makyng or marryng It'm affor Arblaſtr or Louell I kan not thynke that they or any of them may be wt yow. Wherfor in yow is all and God haue yow in kepyng Wretyn at london the day next affor yowr depr̄tyng. I ſchall ſende yow mor knowleche to morow wt godds grace.

Yowrs

John Paſton, k.

11 ½ by 8 ½.

LETTER XCIJ.

RYGHT werſhypfull Syr J recomaund me to you thankyng you of your grete labo'r whych I haue nozt as yet but J ſhall defr̄ue to my power and ferthermore lyke yow to wyte that I haue thoght ryght long after you. Neuyrtheleſſe I remember well that ye delt wythe ryght delayous peple my lord Archbyſhop and other of my lords and I dempte by cawſe of your long tarryng that by youre ſad dyſcreſcyon all hadde ben ſett thorow. neur̄theleſſe I underſtend by your wrytyng that my lord

true brother and ſervants, and me, as ye can deviſe by my troth; for in good faith this matter ſticketh more nigh mine heart and me than I can write unto you, and to my brother and ſervants more near than, as God knoweth, they wot of; wherefore, maſter Writtill, all our welfare reſteth in you, beſeeching you to remember it, for this matter is to all us either making or marring.

Item, as for Arblaſter or Lovell, I cannot think that they or any of them may be with you, wherefore in you is all; and God have you in keeping.

Written at London, the next day after your departing; I ſhall ſend you more knowledge to-morrow, with God's grace.

Yours

JOHN PASTON, Knight.

London, September, 1469. 9 E. IV.

LETTER XCII.

To Maſter Writtill.

RIGHT worſhipful Sir, I recommend me to you, thanking you of your great labour, which I have not as yet, but I ſhall deſerve to my power; and furthermore like you to weet that I have thought right long after you; nevertheleſs I remember well that ye dealt with right delayous people, my Lord Archbiſhop and other of my Lords, and I dempt *(deemed)* becauſe of your long tarrying, that by your ſad *(ſage)* diſcretion all had been ſet through; nevertheleſs I underſtand by your writing

lord of Norff's concell thynketh that hys entent whych ye ſertefyed me by your wrytyng ſholde be more to hys wyrſhep than the appoyntements and rewll made by the lords of the Kyngs Concell whych be to my ſeyd lord of Norff. ner kyne whych appoyntements ſythen yourr departyng hath be largely remembryd amongs the ſeyd lords here thynkyng it in hem ſelf ſo honorabyll to my lord of Norff. that ther ſhuld non of my lords concell well avyſed mevyd to the Contrary [1] Jamys Hobard was ſent fro my of Norff. heder and ſpake w^t my lord [2] archbyſhop and anſwer he had of my ſeyd lord and howe my lord tendryd the mater yet and wyll. I trowe he haue told you and yf he haue not the brynger her of ſchall informe you and he broght thys ſame appoyntemēt from my lord that my lord was well agryed that J ſhulde ocupye for my parte Jff I ſhud take no other apoyntemēt but acordyng to your lett^r it wer hard for me and for my tytell to putte my lord in that poſſeſſyon for ther ys thyngs in erthe to myn eſſe in your lett^r gode for me in that appoyntement Sauyng the ſuerty of my brothers lyffe and my ſ^r v'nts whych ye thynke dowtefull yf ſo be that thay lakke ſtuff ſhotte and vytayll mervaylyng ſore and thynk it Jmpoſſybell Jn thys ſhorte Seaſon or in iiij tyme the ſeaſon heder towards that thay ſhuld lakk other w^t owte it ſoo be that my lords men haue enterd owght the place and ſo had ther ſtuffe from hem whych J cannot thynk Alſo S^r for the tyme of your Comyng to my lord

Sir John Paſton in this Letter gives further directions to Maſter Writtill, and informs him of what had paſſed at London, between the Lords and himſelf, &c. he apears likewiſe to rely much on his wiſdom and diſcretion.

[2] This moſt probably was James Hobart, who, in 1478, was Lent-reader at Lincoln's Inn, and in 1487 Attorney-general.

of

writing that my Lord of Norfolk's counſel thinketh that his intent, which ye certified me by your writing, ſhould be more to his worſhip than the appointments and rule made by the Lords of the King's council, which be to my ſaid Lord of Norfolk ner kyne *(nothing kind)*, which appointments ſince your departing hath been largely remembered among the ſaid Lords here, thinking it in themſelves ſo honourable to my Lord of Norfolk, that there ſhould none of my Lord's counſel well adviſed (*have*) moved to the contrary.

[1] James Hobart was ſent from my *(Lord)* of Norfolk hither, and ſpake with my Lord [2] Archbiſhop, and anſwer he had of my ſaid Lord, and how my Lord tendered the matter yet and will, I trow he hath told you, and if he have not, the bringer hereof ſhall inform you; and he brought this ſame appointment from my Lord, that my Lord was well agreed that I ſhould occupy for my part if J ſhould take no other appointment, but according to your Letter it were hard for me and for my title to put my Lord in that poſſeſſion, for there is things in erthe *(ſcarcely)* to mine eaſe in your Letter, good for me in that appointment, ſaving the ſurety of my brother's life and my ſervants, which ye think doubtful, if ſo be that they lack ſtuff, ſhot, and victuals, marvelling ſore, and think it impoſſible in this ſhort ſeaſon, or in four times the ſeaſon hither towards, that they ſhould lack either, without it ſo be that my Lord's men have entered ought (*ſomewhat*) the place, and ſo had their ſtuff from them, which I cannot think. Alſo Sir, for the time of your coming to my Lord

He died in 1516, and lies buried in Norwich Cathedral; from him the preſent Earl of Buckinghamſhire is lineally deſcended.

[2] George Neville, was tranſlated from Exeter to York, in 1464.

of

of Norff. ſ^r^v'nts of my lords wer w^t^ my moder at Norwych meuyng to ſend to my brother hyr ſone to delyu^r^ the place under ſuch a forme as youre lettere ſpecefyeth and ſo I cannot underſtand what regard my lords Concell takyth to my lords letter and to your labo^r^ in thys behalf but that thay offeryd as largely afore ze wryteth in your letter that ye durſt nat paſſe your credens pleaſe you to remember that ſeyd your credens affore the lords was ryght large and as large as myght well be in thys mater b'eth to my lords concell of Norff. to w^t^drąwe the ſeege w^t^ moor other mater as ye knowe and to the Iuſtic of the peas and to the Shyryff and hys offycers your awtoryte was grete Jnow to Jche of them. Wherfor Mayſter Wretell J neu^r^ for thys nere zet wyll take appoyntement in thys mater but as my lords wyll and my lord archbyſhop whych as well as I my ſelf haue holy putte our tryſt to youre dyſcrete dyreccyon and my ſeyd lord ſythen youre dep^r^ter zour zoyng thynkyng you alls mete a man in executyng ther comaundement as cowde be choſyn Neu^r^theleſſe for awnſwer to you at thys ſeaſon my lord archbyſhop ys north wards towards the Kyng how be it it ys ſeyd uppon a metyng w^t^ my lord of Clarens my lord ſhuld reto'rne a yen and as zeſt^r^ euyn he ſend a ſ^r^v'nt of hys to me wenyng to hys lordſhyp that S^r^ [3] Humfray and ye wer in Caſter as was appoynted and ye ſhuld ſend to hys lordſhyp anſwer of the gydyng ther by wrytyng comaundyng me that yff any ſuch wrytyngs cam from you yf hys lordſhyp wer not paſt xx myle from london to com to hys lordſhyp w^t^ the ſame underſtandyng for ſertayn that he ys nott yet ſo ferr.

[3] Sir Humphrey Talbot, was a Captain at this ſiege, under the Duke of Norfolk.

Wherfor

of Norfolk, ſervants of my Lord's were with my mother at Norwich, moving to ſend to my brother her ſon, to deliver the place under ſuch a form as your Letter ſpecifieth, and ſo I cannot underſtand what regard my Lord's counſel taketh to my Lord's Letter, and to your labour in this behalf, but that they offered as largely afore; ye writeth in your Letter that ye durſt not paſs your credence, pleaſe you to remember that ſaid your credence afore the Lords was right large, and as large as might well be in this matter, both to my Lord's counſel of Norfolk to withdraw the ſiege, with more other matter as ye know; and to the Juſtice of the Peace and to the Sheriff and his officers, your authority was great enough to each of them.

Wherefore, Maſter Writtill I never for this, nor yet will take appointment in this matter, but as my Lords will and my Lord Archbiſhop, which as well as I myſelf, have wholly put our truſt to your diſcreet direction; and my ſaid Lord ſince your departure your going, thinking you as meet a man in executing their commandment as could be choſen; nevertheleſs for anſwer to you at this ſeaſon, my Lord Archbiſhop is northwards towards the King; howbeit, it is ſaid upon a meeting with my Lord of Clarence, my Lord ſhall return again; and as yeſter even he ſent a ſervant of his to me, weening to his Lordſhip (*his Lordſhip thinking*), that Sir [3] Humphrey and ye were in Caiſter as was appointed, and ye ſhould ſend to his Lordſhip anſwer of the guiding there by writing, commanding me, that if any ſuch writings came from you, if his Lordſhip were not paſt twenty miles from London, to come to his Lordſhip with the ſame; underſtanding for certain that he is not yet ſo far; wherefore I

Wherfor J will in althe haſt poſſybell ryde nygt and day till J ſee hys lordſhyp and after Comunicacyon had w^t hys lordſhyp as ſone as ys poſſybell that a man may go be twext ye ſhall haue an anſwer of hys dyſpoſicyon for hys Jntres is ſuch that as I haue wryten I ſhall neu^r do therin w^toute hym as my Coſyn brynger herof more playnly ſhall enforme you For I canne thynke ryght well that as ze wryteth to me my broder wyll not delyu^r the place to non erthly perſon but yf he ſee wrytyng fro my lord it ſemyt be your wrytyng that my lord of Norff. conſeyll Jntende not that my lord Archbyſhop ſhuld dele in thys mater for he ys not named in your lett^r wherof J mervayle for it was movyd to you at your departyng hens the Kyngs concell ſhuld haue take dyrec-cyon in thys mater or els my lord [4] Cardenall my lord of Clarens my lord Archbyſhop and my lord of [5] Eſſex &c. Neu^rtheleſſe Mayſt^r Wryttyll all profyght Man^r or lyflod leyd apart if it be ſo that thorow rekleſneſe my brother and ſ^rv'nts be in ſuch Jop^rte as ye haue wryten to me whych ſhold be half Jmpoſſybell in my mynd that thay ſhold myſſuſe ſo mech ſtuff in iiij tymes the ſpace and that ye haue euident knowlych by my ſeyd brother hym ſelf therof. J woll praye yow to ſe hym and them in ſuerte of ther lyffys what ſo eu^r ſhold fall of the lyfflode how be it J wold not that my brother and ſ^rv'nts ſhold gyff upp the place not for a m^l li. yf thay myght in any wyſe kepe it and ſave ther lyves and therfor at the reuerens of God ſycht it ys ſo that my lord Archbyſhop and my lords all and J haue putte o^r truſt in you that ye wyll do yo^r deuoyer to haue the verrey knowlech of

[4] Thomas Bourchier, Archbiſhop of Canterbury, and Lord Cardinal.

my

will in all the haſte poſſible ride night and day till I ſee his Lordſhip, and after communication had with his Lordſhip, as ſoon as is poſſible that a man may go betwixt, ye ſhall have an anſwer of his diſpoſition; for his intereſt is ſuch that, as I have written, I ſhall never do therein without him, as my Couſin, bringer hereof, more plainly ſhall inform you; for I can think right well, that as ye writeth to me, my brother will not deliver the place to none earthly perſon, but if (*unleſs*) he ſee writing from my Lord.

It ſeemeth by your writing that my Lord of Norfolk's counſel intend not that my Lord Archbiſhop ſhould deal in this matter, for he is not named in your Letter, whereof I marvel; for it was moved to you at your departing hence, the King's council ſhould have taken direction in this matter, or elſe my [4] Lord Cardinal, my Lord of Clarence, my Lord Archbiſhop, and my Lord of [5] Eſſex, &c. Nevertheleſs, Maſter Writtil, all profit, manor, or livelihood, laid apart, if it be ſo that through rekeleſſneſs (*negligence*) my brother and ſervants be in ſuch jeopardy as ye have written to me, which ſhould be half impoſſible in my mind that they ſhould miſuſe ſo much ſtuff in four times the ſpace, and that ye have evident knowledge by my ſaid brother himſelf thereof; I will pray you to ſee him and them in ſurety of their lives, whatſoever ſhall fall of the livelihood, howbeit, I would not that my brother and ſervants ſhould give up the place not for a thouſand pounds, if they might in any wiſe keep it and ſave their lives; and therefore, at the reverence of God, ſince it is ſo, that my Lord Archbiſhop and my Lords all, and I have put our truſt in you, that ye will do your devoir to have the very knowledge

[5] Henry Bourchier, Earl of Eſſex.

my brother hymſelf and not of my lords men wheder he ſtante in ſuch Jop^rtye as your lett^r ſpecefyeth or net for J dowte not uppon the ſyzth of thys lett^r and of the lett^r that ye had before that my brother will put no myſtruſt in you Conſyderyng that he knowyth that ye com from my lords and my lord Archbyſhop and haue my wrytyng and as for my lord Archbyſhop wrytyng and aunſwere ſuch as it ſhalbe ye ſhall haue it in all the haſte poſſybell but I thynke v'yly that my lord eſchewyth to telle you any thyng w^tout y^t he myght ſpeke w^t you allone and me thynketh v^ryly that thay ought not to lette you to ſpeke w^t hym allone conſyderyng that ye haue auctoryte and wrytyng from the lords ſo to do and as for the Juſtificacyon of entryng the place and ſege layng to the ſame and the comaundement of the Juſtic of the peaſe and the Sherewe to aſſyſte my lord in thys gydyng J wote ye underſtond that the lords knowe all that mater and ye herd it Comened and how thay toke it in ther conſayts ther ys no more mayſt^r Wryttell but J cōmyth all thys wrytyng unto your dyſcreſcyon And as ye thynk beſt acordyng to ſuch menys deſyre as haue entretyd you therin and for my moyſt avayle J p'y you S^r ſoo doo and I ſhall ſe un to your beſynes and labo^r that ye ſhall haue Cauſe to do for me in tyme Comyng and as the brynger herof ſhall tell you and I p'y god haue you in hys kepyng Wryten at london the x day of Septembr.

By yo^r frend for ever

John Paſton, K.

Paper Mark,
A Coronet.
Pl. xxvi. N° 2.

Autograph. Pl. iv. N° 9.

L. C. T.

of my brother himſelf, and not of my Lord's men, whether he ſtand in ſuch jeopardy as your Letter ſpecifieth or not, for I doubt not upon the ſight of this Letter, and of the Letter that ye had before, that my brother will put no miſtruſt in you, conſidering that he knoweth that ye come from my Lords, and my Lord Archbiſhop, and have my writing; and as for my Lord Archbiſhop's writing and anſwer ſuch as it ſhall be, ye ſhall have it in all haſte poſſible, but I think verily that my Lord eſcheweth to tell you any thing without that he might ſpeak with you alone, and me thinketh verily that they ought not to let (*hinder*) you to ſpeak with him alone, conſidering that ye have authority and writing from the Lords ſo to do; and as for the juſtification of entering the place, and ſiege laying to the ſame, and the commandment of the juſtice of the peace and the Sheriff to aſſiſt my Lord in this guiding, I wot ye underſtand that the Lords know all that matter, and ye heard it communed, and how they took it in their conceits.

There is no more, Maſter Writtil, but I commit all this writing unto your diſcretion, and as ye think beſt according to ſuch men's deſire as have intreated you therein, and for my moſt avail, I pray you, Sir, ſo do, and I ſhall ſee unto your buſineſs, and labour that ye ſhall have cauſe to do for me in time coming, and as the bringer hereof ſhall tell you, and I pray God have you in his keeping.

Written at London, the 10th day of September.

By your Friend for ever,

[6] JOHN PASTON, Knight.

London, Sunday,
10th of September,
1469. 9 E. IV.

LET-

LETTER XCIII.

I Grete you wele letyng you wete that yo^{r} brother and his feleſshep ſtand in grete jop^{r}te at Cayſt^{r} and lakke vetayll and [1] Dawbeney and [2] Berney be dedde and diu^{r}ſe other gretly hurt and thei fayl̃ gunnepowder and arrowes and the place ſore brokyn w^{t} Gonnes of y^{e} toder p^{r}te ſo that but thei haue haſty help thei be like to leſe bothe ther lyfes and the place to the gretteſt rebuke to you that eu^{r} came to any jentilman for eu^{r}y man in this Countre marvaylleth gretly that ye ſuffre them to be ſo longe in ſo gret Jop^{r}te w^{t} ought help or other remedy The Duke hathe be more fervently ſet y'up on and more Cruell ſith y^{t} Wretyll my lord of Claraunce man was ther than he was befor and he hath ſent for all his ten'nts from eu'y place and other to be ther at Cayſt^{r} on Thoryſday next comyng that ther is than like to be the gretteſt multitude of pepill y^{t} came y' yet and thei

My Readers I make no doubt will be equally pleaſed with myſelf, in having ſo authentic an account of the manners of the times placed before them, wherein a diſputed title to an eſtate is not conteſted in the Courts of Law, but by a regular and well conducted ſiege laid to the Caſtle claimed by the beſiegers.

Every warlike preparation is made by both parties, and the aſſault and defence is carried on with the greateſt military ſkill.

The number of the beſiegers is ſaid by Blomefield to have amounted to three thouſand, while the number of thoſe who defended the place did not exceed thirty perſons; a proof of the ſtrength of the fortreſs attacked, which, with this handful of men, held out ſome time.

The anxiety of Margaret Paſton for the ſafety of her ſon and his companions, intereſts us in her favour, and her advice to Sir John to apply to the Earl of Oxford for his aſſiſtance to raiſe the ſiege, though, if attended with ſucceſs, he ſhould enjoy the Manor of Caiſter for his life, is a curious circumſtance, and throws light upon the manners and politics of the times.

p'poſe

LETTER XCIII.

To Sir John Paſton, Knight.

I Greet you well, letting you weet that your Brother and his fellowſhip ſtand in great jeopardy at Caiſter, and lack victuals, and [1] Dawbeney and [2] Berney be dead, and divers other greatly hurt; and they fail Gunpowder and Arrows, and the place (*is*) ſore broken with guns of the other party, ſo that but (*unleſs*) they have haſty help, they be like to loſe both their lives and the place, to the greateſt rebuke to you that ever came to any gentleman, for every man in this country marvelleth greatly that ye ſuffer them to be ſo long in ſo great jeopardy without help or other remedy.

The Duke hath been more fervently ſet thereupon, and more cruel, ſince that Writtil, my Lord of Clarence's man was there, than he was before, and he hath ſent for all his tenants from every place, and others, to be there at Caiſter on Thurſday next coming, that there is then like to be the greateſt multitude of people that came there yet; and they purpoſe then to make a

[1] John Dawbeney, Eſq. whoſe death is here mentioned, was a gentleman of a good family in the County of Norfolk, and was probably an anceſtor of a family now reſiding at Coulton, in the ſame County, who write themſelves Daveney.

[2] Oſbert Berney, the other perſon here mentioned as dead, was not killed at this ſiege; he ſurvived, and died without iſſue ſome years after, when he was buried in Bradeſton Church, in Norfolk, there being a braſs plate in the Chancel, having the following inſcription to his memory:

"Hic jacet Oſbertus, filius Joh. Berney, Armig. de Redeham Dni et de Bragſton."

He was the ſon of John Berney, Eſq. by Catherine, daughter of Oſbert Mundeford, of Hockwell, Eſq.

p'poſe them to make a gret aſſaught for thei haue ſent for Gannes to lynne and other place be the ſeeys ſyde y^t w^t ther gret multitude of Gannes w^t other ſhoot and ordyn'nce ther ſhall no man dar appere in y^e place thei ſhall hold them ſo beſy w^t ther gret pepill y^t it ſhall not lye in their pore w^tin to hold it ageyn them w^t ought god help them or haue haſty ſoco^r from you Therfor as ye wull haue my blyſſyng I charge you and require you y^t ye ſe yo^r brother be holpyn in haſt And if ye can haue nonmeane rather deſire writyng fro my lord of Clarens if he be at london or ell of my lord Archebuſshop of york to y^e Duke of Norff. y^t he wull gr'unte them y^t be in y^e place her lyfes and ther goodes and in eſchewyng of inſurreccons w^t other in conuenyens y^t be like to growe w^tin the Shire of Norff. this trobelows werd be cauſe of ſuch conuenticles and gaderyngs w^tin the ſeid ſhire for cauſe of y^e ſeid place thei ſhall ſuffre hym to entre up on ſuch appoyntment or other like takyn be the advyſe of yo^r councell ther at london if ye thynk this be not good till the law hath det^rmyned otherwyſe and lete hym write a nother lett^r to yo^r brother to deliu^r the place up on the ſame appoyntment and if ye thynk as I can ſuppoſe that the Duke of Norff. wull not aggre to this be cauſe he gr'unted this aforn and thei in the place wuld not accept it than J wuld the ſeid maſſanger ſhuld w^t the ſeid letters bryng fro the ſeid lord of Clarence or ell my lord Archebuſshop to my lord of Oxenford other letters to reſcue them forth w^t thowghe the ſeid Erle of Oxenford ſhuld haue

great aſſault, for they have ſent for guns to Lynn and other places, by the ſea's ſide, that, with their great multitude of guns with other ſhot and ordnance, there ſhall no man dare appear in the place, they ſhall hold them ſo buſy with their great *(number of)* people, that it ſhall not lie in their power within to hold it againſt them, without God help them, or (*they*) have haſty ſuccour from you; therefore, as ye will have my bleſſing, I charge you and require you, that ye ſee your brother be holpen in haſte, and if ye can have none mean rather deſire writing from my Lord of Clarence, if he be at London, or elſe of my Lord Archbiſhop of York, to the Duke of Norfolk, that he will grant them that be in the place their lives and their goods, and in eſchewing of inſurrections with other inconveniences that be like to grow within the Shire of Norfolk, this troublous werd *(tumultuous world)*, becauſe of ſuch conventicles and gatherings within the ſaid Shire, for cauſe of the ſaid place, they ſhall ſuffer him to enter upon ſuch appointment or other like, taken by the advice of your counſel there at London, if ye think this be not good, till the law hath determined otherwiſe, and let him write another Letter to your brother to deliver the place up on the ſame appointment; and if ye think, as I can ſuppoſe, that the Duke of Norfolk will not agree to this, becauſe he granted this afore, and they in the place would not accept it, then I would the ſaid meſſenger ſhould with the ſaid Letters bring from the ſaid Lord of Clarence, or elſe my Lord Archbiſhop, to my Lord of Oxford other Letters to reſcue them forthwith, though the ſaid Earl

haue the place duryng his lyfe for his labor Spare not this to be don in haſt if ye wull haue ther lyves and be ſett by in Norff. though ye ſhuld leys the beſt manr of all for the reſcuſe J had leuer ye laſt ye lyffelode than ther lyfes ye muſt gete a Maſſanger of the lords or ſume other notabill man to bryng ther letters do your devor now and lete me ſend you no mor Maſſangers for this maters but ſend me be the berer her of more certeyn Comfort than ye haue do be all other that J haue ſent be for Jn any wyſe lete the letters yt ſhall Come to ye Erle of Oxenford comyn wt the letters that ſhall comyn to ye Duke of Norff. yt if he wull not aggree to the ton that ye may haue redy yor reſcuſe yt it nede no mor to ſend yrfor God kepe you Wretyn the Tueſday next befor holy rood Day in haſt.

Be yor moder

11 ½ by 12 ¼.

Paper Mark,
Bull's Head and Star.
Pl. xxii. N° 13.

[3] Autograph. Pl. II. N° 25.

LETTER XCIII.

MOODR uppon Sat'day laſt was Dawbeney and Bernay wer on lyve and mery And I ſuppoſe ther Com no man owt of the place to yow ſyn that tyme that cowde haue afferteynyd to yow of ther dethys. And as towchȳg the Fyrſeneſſe of the

of Oxford ſhould have the place during his life for his labour; ſpare not this to be done in haſte if ye will have their lives, and be ſet by *(eſteemed)* in Norfolk, though ye ſhould loſe the beſt manor of all for the reſcous. I had lever (*rather*) ye loſt the livelihood than their lives; ye muſt get a meſſenger of the Lords, or ſome other notable man, to bring theſe Letters; do your devoir now, and let me ſend you no more meſſengers for this matter, but ſend me by the bearer hereof moré certain comfort than ye have done by all other that I ſent before; in any wiſe let the Letters that ſhall come to the Earl of Oxford, come with the Letters that ſhall come to the Duke of Norfolk, that if he will not agree to the one, that ye may have ready your reſcous, that it need no more to ſend, therefore God keep you. Written the Tueſday next before Holy Rood day, in haſte.

By your Mother

[3] MARGARET PASTON.

Norwich, Tueſday,
12th of September,
1469. 9 E. IV.

LETTER XCIV.

To Margaret Paſton.

MOTHER, upon Saturday (*that*) laſt was, Dawbeney and Berney were alive and merry, and I ſuppoſe there came no man out of the place to you ſince that time, that could have aſcertained to you of their deaths; and as touching the fierceneſs

Duke or of hys peple ſchewyd ſyn that tyme that Wryttel dep'tyd J trowe it was concludyd that trews and abſtynence of werre ſcholde be hadd er he dep'tyd whych ſhalle dewr tyl Monday next Comyng and by that tyme i trow y^t trews ſhall be takyn tyll that day vij nyght aftr by whych tyme I hope of a goode dyreccon ſchall be hadde And wher as ye wryght to me y^t I ſcholde ſewe for lett'is from my lordys of Claranc and Yorke they be not her and if they wrot to hym as yey haue don ij tymes I trow it wolde nat advayle and as for to labor thois lett'is and the reſcu to gedre they ben ij ſendry thyngys For when the reſcu is redy that the Coſt ther of is don For if J be dreuyn therto to reſcu it er they Com ther that ſcholde do it it ſhall coſt a m^l eſcuys And as meche aft^r whyh wey wer harde for me to take whyll y^t I maye do it otherwiſe but as to ſey y^t they ſchall be reſcuyd if all the lands y^t I haue in Jngelond and frendys maye do it they ſhall and god be frendly and that as ſchertly as it may goodlely and wele be brout abut and the gretteſt defawt erthly is mony and ſom frendys and neyborys to helpe Wherfor I beſeche yow to ſende me cōfort what what money ye coude fynde the menys to get or cheuyſche uppon ſuerte ſufficient er uppon lyflod to be Jnmorgē er yit ſolde and what peple by lyklyed yowr frendys and myn kowde make uppon a ſchort warnyng and to ſend me worde in all the haſt as it is needfull but moodre J fele by yowr wryghtyng that ye deme in me I ſcholde not do my deuyr

Sir John Paſton here ſeems hurt at his Mother's ſuſpecting him of not exerting himſelf to the utmoſt in endeavouring either to accommodate matters, or to aſſiſt his brother and friends within the place. He ſhews himſelf likewiſe both a man of ſpirit in coming with.

of the Duke or of his people, ſhewed ſince that time that Writtill departed, I trow it was concluded that truce and abſtinence of war ſhould be had ere he departed, which ſhall endure till Monday next coming; and by that time I trow that truce ſhall be taken till that day ſev'night after, by which time, I hope of, a good direction ſhall be had; and whereas ye write to me that I ſhould ſue for letters from my Lords of Clarence and York, they be not here, and if they wrote to him as they have done two times, I trow it would not avail; and as for to labour thoſe letters and the reſcue together, they be two ſundry things, for when the reſcue is ready, that the coſt thereof is done, for if I be driven thereto to reſcue it ere they come there, that ſhould do it, it ſhall coſt a thouſand Eſcutys, and as much after, which way were hard for me to take while that I may do it otherwiſe; but as to ſay, that they ſhall be reſcued if all the lands that I have in England, and Friends may do it, they ſhall, and *(if)* God be friendly, and that as ſhortly as it may goodly and well be brought about; and the greateſt default earthly is money, and ſome friends and neighbours to help, wherefore I beſeech you to ſend me comfort with what money ye could find the means to get or cheviſe *(borrow upon intereſt)*, upon ſurety ſufficient, or upon livelihood to be in mortgage or yet ſold, and what people by likelihood your friends and mine could make upon a ſhort warning, and to ſend me word in all the haſte as it is needful; but, Mother, I feel by your writing that ye deem in me,

with a few to their relief, if he had a place in Norfolk for their reception, and of feeling for the diſtreſs of thoſe ſhut up in his Caſtle at Caiſter.

Autograph. Pl. IV. N° 9.

I ſhould.

deuyr w^t^owt ye wrot to me ſom hevye tydyngs And modre if I had nede to be qwykynyd w^t^ a lett^r^ in thys nede J wer of my ſelfe to ſlawe a felaw but moodre J enſur yow y^t^ J haue herde x tymes werſe tydyngs ſyn the aſſege by gan than any lett^r^ that ye wrot to me and ſomtyme J haue herde ryght goode tydyngs both but thys J enſure yow that they that be w^t^in haue no werſe reſte than I haue ner caſtyth mor Jupperte but whethyr I had goode tydyngys er ill J take Gode to wittneſſe y^t^ I haue don my devoyr as I wolde be don for in caſe lyke and ſchall doo tyll ther be an ende of it. J haue ſent to the Kynge to Yorke and to y^e^ lordys and hope to haue anſſwer from them by Wednyſday at y^e^ fertheſt and aft^r^ that anſwer ſhall J be rewlyd and than ſend yow word for tyll that tyme kan J take non dyreccon And to encomfort yow dypeyre yow not for lak of vytayle ner of gonne powder ner be natt to heuy ner to mery therfor For and hevyneſſe or ſorow wolde haue be the remedy ther of I knew neuyr mater in my lyfe y^t^ I kowde haue ben ſo heuy or ſory for and w^t^ goddys grace it ſchall be remedyed well jnow For by my trowthe I hadde leuer loſe the man^r^ of Caſt^r^ than y^e^ ſympleſt mannys lyfe therin if that maybe hys ſaueacon Wherfor I beſeche yow to ſende me worde wat mony And men ye thynke y^t^ I am lyke to get in that cōtr For the haſty purchace of mony and men ſchall be the getyng and reſcu of it and the ſauevacon of moſt mennys lyfys if we take y^t^ weye Alſo thys daye I porpoſe to ſende to Yorke to y^e^ Kyng for a thyng Whych ſame only maye be lyklyod be the ſavacon of all ye muſt remembre that the reſcue of it is the laſt remedy of all and how it is nat eaſy to get.

and

I ſhould not do my devoir (*endeavour*) without ye wrote to me ſome heavy tidings, and, Mother, if I had need to be quickened with a Letter in this need, I were of myſelf too ſlow a fellow; but, Mother, I enſure (*aſſure*) you that I have heard ten times worſe tidings ſince the ſiege began, than any Letter that ye wrote to me, and ſometimes I have heard right good tidings both; but this I aſſure you that they that be within have no worſe reſt than I have, nor caſteth more jeopardy; but whether I had good tidings or ill, I take God to witneſs, that I have done my devoir, as I would be done for in caſe like, and ſhall do till there be an end of it.

I have ſent to the King to York, and to the Lords, and hope to have anſwer from them by Wedneſday at the furtheſt, and after that anſwer ſhall I be ruled, and then ſend you word, for till that time can I take none direction; and to encomfort you, deſpair you not for lack of victuals nor of gunpowder, nor be not too heavy nor too merry therefore; for and *(if)* heavineſs or ſorrow would have been the remedy thereof, I knew never matter in my life that I could have been ſo heavy or ſorry for, and with God's grace it ſhall be remedied well enough, for by my troth I had lever *(rather)* loſe the Manor of Caiſter than the ſimpleſt man's life therein, if that may be his ſalvation; wherefore I beſeech you to ſend me word what money and men ye think that I am like to get in that country; for the haſty purchaſe of money and men ſhall be the getting and reſcue of it, and the ſalvation of moſt men's lives, if we take that way.

Alſo, this day I purpoſe to ſend to York to the King for a thing, which ſame only may by likelihood be the ſalvation of all; ye muſt remember that the reſcue of it is the laſt remedy of all,

and alſo ye ſende me worde y^t^ I ſcholde nat kome hom w^t^owt y^t^ I kome ſtronke but if I had hadd on other ſtronge place in Norfolke to haue comen to thowe J had browt ryght fewe w^t^ me I ſcholde w^t^ godds grace haue reſcued it by thys tyme er ellys he ſcholde haue ben fayne to haue beſegyd bothe placys or yit And the Duke had not kept Yarmoth owthe. but Mother J beſeche yow ſende me ſom mony for by my trowth I haue but x^s^ I wot not wher to haue mor and Moreouy' J haue ben x tymes in lyke caſe or werſe w^t^in thys x wekys. J ſent to Rychard Call for mony but he ſendyth me non J beſeche yow to gyde the euydence y^t^ Pekok can tell yow of and to ſe it ſaffe for it is tolde me y^t^ Richard Call hath hadd right large langage of them J wolde nat they com in hys fyngrys. J haue no worde from yow of them. ner whether ye haue yit in yowr kepyng the euydence of Eſt Bekh'm owt of hys handys. Ner whethyr ye haue ſent to my manerys that they ſchold not paye hym No mor mony or not. Alſo y^t^ it like yow to geve credence to Robyn in other thyngs Wret the Fryday next aft^r^ Holy roode day.

John Paſton, K.

11 ½ by 16 ½.
Paper Mark,
A Demy Bull.
Pl. x. N° 5.

all, and how it is not eaſy to get; and alſo ye ſend me word that I ſhould not come home without that I come ſtrong, but if I had had one other ſtrong place in Norfolk, to have come to, though I had brought right few with me, I ſhould with God's grace have reſcued it by this time, or elſe he ſhould have been fain to have beſieged both places ere yet, and *(if)* the Duke had not kept Yarmouth out: but, Mother, I beſeech you ſend me ſome money, for by my troth I have but ten ſhillings, and wot not where to have more; and moreover I have been ten times in like caſe, or worſe, within this ten weeks.

I ſent to Richard Calle for money, but he ſendeth me none; I beſeech you to guide the evidence that Peacock can tell you of, and to ſee it ſafe, for it is told me that Richard Calle hath had right large language of them; I would not they come in his fingers: I have no word from you of them, nor whether ye have yet in your keeping the evidence of Eaſt Beckham out of his hands, nor whether ye have ſent to my Manors that they ſhould not pay him no more money or not; alſo that it like you to give credence to Robin in other things.

Written the Friday next after Holy Rood day.

JOHN PASTON, Knight.

London, Friday,
15th of September,
1469. 9 E. IV.

LETTER XCII.

To John Paſton
and to non othyr.

I Recomand me to yow and promyſe yow y^t^ J haue and ſchall labore and fynde y^e^ meane y^t^ ye ſchall haue honor of yowr delyng as ye haue hyddr towards as all Jngelond and eu'y man reportythe and moreou^r^ J am in weye for it by many dyu^r^ſe weys. Wherof ther ſchall be one exicutyd by thys day xiiij nyght at y^e^ fertheſt and p^r^auentur w^t^in vij dayes and iff ye maye kepe it ſo longe J wolde be gladde. And aftr that iff ye have nott from me other wryghtyng that than ye do ther in for yowr ſaffgarde and yowr felaſchep only and to yowr worſchypys. and as for the place no force therfor ye knowe thys hande y'for nedythe no mencon from whem it Comythe and more ouyr they that be abut yow be in obloquy of all men and mor ouyr they haue ben wretyn to by alſe ſpeciall wryghtyng as myght be aft^r^ the worlde y^t^ now is and promyſe yow y^t^ the Dukes Concell wolde y^t^ they had neuyr be gon it. and more ouyr they be chargyd in payne of ther lyuys that thow they gate the place they ſcholde not hurt on of yow. ther is nowther ye ner none w^t^ yow but and he knewe what is gen'ally reportyd of hym he or ye and god fortewne yow wele may thynke hym iiij tymes better in reputacon

This Letter is written by Sir John Paſton, to his Brother John Paſton, to encourage him to hold out Caiſter Caſtle as long as he has hopes of relief; he tells him of the good opinion which is entertained of the courage and conduct of thoſe in the place, but that thoſe who beſiege it are mentioned in a very different manner.

LETTER XCV.

To John Paſton, and to none other.

I Recommend me to you, and promiſe you that I have and ſhall labour and find the mean that ye ſhall have honour of your dealing, as ye have hither towards, as all England and every man reporteth; and moreover I am in way for it by many divers ways, whereof there ſhall be one executed by this day fortnight at the furtheſt, and peradventure within ſeven days; and if ye may keep it ſo long I would be glad, and after that if ye have not from me other writing, that then ye do therein for your ſafe-guard and your fellowſhip only, and to your worſhips; and as for the place, no force therefore; ye know this hand, therefore needeth no mention from whom it cometh; and moreover they that be about you be in obliquy of all men; and moreover they have been written to by as ſpecial writing as might be, after the world that now is, and promiſe you that the Duke's counſel would that they had never begun it; and moreover they be charged in pain of their lives, that though they get the place, they ſhould not hurt one of you; there is neither ye nor none with you, but, and (*if*) he knew what is generally reported of him, he or ye, and God fortune you well, may think him four times better in reputation of all folk than ever he was.

The Letter is curious, and written in a ſtyle to give both ſpirits and hope to the beſieged.

of all folk than euyr he was be war whom ye make a concell to thys matr. Alſo J lete yow wete yt I am in moche mor Comfort of yow yan J maye wryght and they yt be about yow haue cawſe to be mor ferde than ye haue And alſo bewar of ſpendyng of yowr ſtuffe of qwarellys powdr and ſtone ſo that if they aſſaut yow er we Come that ye haue ſtuffe to dyffende yow of ovr and than of my lyfe ye get no mor And that your felaſchyp be euyr ocopyed in renewyng of your ſtuffe Wretyn the mondaye next aftr holy Roode Daye.

J trow thow ye be not preuy ther
to ther is taken a trews new tyl
thys Day vij nygh.

8 ½ by 9.
Paper Mark,
A Ring.
Pl. xxii. N° 17.

LETTER XCVJ.

To Sr Iohn Paſton
in haſt
a matr'.

I Grete zow wele and ſend zow godds blyſſyng and my̅ letyng zow wete yat me thynke be ye lettr yt ze ſent me be Robeyn yt ze thynke yt I xuld wryte to zow fabyls and ymagynacyons

but

Beware whom ye make a counſel to this matter.

Alſo, I let you weet that I am in much more comfort of you than I may write, and they that be about you have cauſe to be more ferde *(afraid)* than ye have; and alſo beware of ſpending of your ſtuff of quarrels *(ſquare headed arrows)*, powder, and ſtone *(ſtone bullets)*, ſo that if they aſſault you ere we come, that ye have ſtuff to defend you of over, and then of my life ye get no more; and that your fellowſhip be ever occupied in renewing of your ſtuff.

Written the Monday next, after Holy Rood day.

I trow, though ye be not privy thereto, there is taken a truce new till this day ſev'night.

Monday,
18th of September,
1469. 9 E. IV.

LETTER XCVI.

To Sir John Paſton, in haſte, a matre.

I Greet you well, and ſend you God's bleſſing and mine, letting you weet that me think by the Letter that ye ſent me by Robin, that ye think that I ſhould write to you fables and imagina-

but I do not ſoo I haue wrytȳ as yt haue be enformed me and wulle do Jt was told me y^t^ bothe Daubeney and Berney wer dedee but for f^r^ten Daubeney is dede god aſoyle hys ſowle wher of J ā rythe ſery and yt had pleſyd God yat yt mythe abe oder wyſſe Remēbyr zow ze haue had ij gret loſſys w^t^yne thys Towylemo'th of hȳ and of Sr Thomas. God wyſyth zow as yt pleſythe hȳ Jn ſūdery wyſes he woole ze xuld knowe hȳ and f^r^ue hȳ bett^r^ yā ze haue do be for thys tyme and yā he wull ſend zow y^e^ mor gr'ce to do wele in ale other thynggs And for godds loue remēbyr yt rythe welle and take yt pacyentely and thanke god of hys vyſitacyon and yf ony thyng haue be a myſſe ony other wyſe yā yt howte to haue ben befor thys owther in pryde or in laves expēcs or in eny other thyng yat haue offendyd god amend yt and pray hȳ of hys g'ce and helpe and entende welle to god and to zo^r^ neybors and thow zo^r^ poor heraftyr be to aquyte hē of her maleys zet be m^r^ſyfulle to thē and god xale ſend zow y^e^ mor g'ce to haue yo^r^ entente in other thynggs I remēbyr thys clawſys be cauſe of y^e^ laſt lett^r^ y^t^ ze ſent me I haue ſent to Hary Halmā of Sporylle to helpe to gete as ze deſyerd me and he cāne not gette paſſyd v or viij at the moſt and zet yt wule not be but yf he cūe yat ze truſt upon yat xuld cūe for they long a p^r^te to hȳ and Ryſchard Sharman hathe aſayed on hys p^r^te and he cāe not gette paſſyd v for thoo yat long to u^s^ thei long alſo to o^r^ adu^r^ſarys and they haue be deſyerd be thē and they woold nowte do for hē and ther for they thynke to haue magery of y^e^ toder p^r^te. As for y^e^ Iantylmā yat y^e^ deſyerd me

to

imaginations, but I do not ſo, I have written as it have been informed me, and will do; it was told me that both Dawbeney and Berney were dead, but for certain Dawbeney is dead. God aſſoil his Soul, whereof I am right ſorry, and it had pleaſed God that it might have been otherwiſe.

Remember you, ye have had two great loſſes within this twelvemonth of him, and of Sir Thomas; God viſiteth you as it pleaſeth him in ſundry wiſes, he would ye ſhould know him and ſerve him better than ye have done before this time, and then he will ſend you the more grace to do well in all other things; and for God's love remember it right well, and take it patiently, and thank God of his viſitation; and if any thing have been amiſs, any otherwiſe than it ought to have been before this, either in pride, or in laviſh expences, or in any other thing, that have offended God, amend it, and pray him of his grace and help, and intend well to God, and to your neighbours, and though your power hereafter be to acquit them of their malice, yet be merciful to them, and God ſhall ſend you the more grace to have your intent in other things. I remember theſe clauſes, becauſe of the laſt Letter that ye ſent me. I have ſent to Harry Halman, of Sporle, to help to get as ye deſired me, and he cannot get paſt five or eight at the moſt, and yet it will not be, but if (*unleſs*) he come, that ye truſt upon that ſhould come, for they long (*belong*) apart to him; and Richard Sharman hath aſſayed on his part, and he cannot get paſt five for thoſe that long to us, they long alſo to our adverſaries, and they have been deſired by them, and they would nought do for them, and therefore they think to have magery (*q? management*) of the other part.

As

to ſpeke w^{t} I ſpake w^{t} hys wyfe and ſche told me he was not in thys cūtr ner nowte wooſt wā he xuld be her and as for the tod^{r} mā he hath bowthe hȳ a [1] liu'ry in Bromeholme Pryery and haue geue upe y^{e} woord &c. It' as for mony I kowde getee but x li upon pledgs and y^{t} is ſpent for zo^{r} maters herfor payeng of zo^{r} mē y^{t} wern at Caſt^{r} and other thynggs and I woot not wer to gette non nowther for ſuerte n' for pleggs And as for myn owyn lyuelod J ā ſo ſympely payed ther of y^{t} I fer me I xale be fayn to borow for my ſylfe or ell to br'ke up howſold or bothe as for y^{e} zeddyng of the place at Caſt^{r} J trowe Wretyll hathe told of the paw'temēts how ytts delyu'd J woold y^{t} had be ſo her thys tyme and zāther xuld not a bē do ſo mykyle herte as ther is in dyu'ſe weyes For māy of o^{r} welewyllers arn putte to looſſe for o^{r} ſaks And I fer me y^{t} xale be long her yt be r'cūpenſyd ageyn and y^{t} xale cauſe other to do y^{e} leſſe for vus her aftyr J woold ze xuld zo^{r} brother woord and ſū other y^{t} ze truſte to ſee to zo^{r} owyn lyelod to ſette yt in a rule and to gad^{r} ther of y^{t} may be had in haſte and alſo if S^{r} John Faſtolf lyelod y^{t} may be gadyrd in peſybyle wyſe for as for Ryſchard Calle he wulle no mor gadyr yt but yf ze comaund hȳ and he woold fayn make

This well written Letter of Margaret Paſton to Sir John Paſton, gives us an high opinion of her good ſenſe and prudent conduct; ſhe is juſtly diſpleaſed with him for ſuppoſing, that ſhe ſhould knowingly ſend him falſe information; the good advice ſhe gives him flows from her own reliance upon God, and from her knowledge of mankind; ſhe laments her own inability to aſſiſt him with money, and recommends proper methods for the increaſe of his livelihood.

hys

As for the gentleman that ye deſired me to ſpeak with, I ſpake with his wife, and ſhe told me he was not in this country, nor nought wiſt when he ſhould be here; and as for the other man he has bought him a [1] Livery in Bromholm Priory, and have given up the world, &c.

Item, as for money I could get but ten pounds upon pledges, and that is ſpent for your matters here, for paying of your men that were at Caiſter, and other things, and I wot not where to get none, neither for ſurety nor for pledges; and as for mine own livelihood, I am ſo ſimply paid thereof, that I fear me I ſhall be fain to borrow for myſelf, or elſe to break up houſehold, or both.

As for the yielding of the place at Caiſter, I trow Writtil hath told of the pawntements (*appointments*) how it is delivered, I would that had been ſo ere this time, and then there ſhould not have been done ſo mickle hurt as there is in divers ways, for many of our well-willers are put to loſs for our ſakes, and I fear me it ſhall be long ere it be recompenſed again, and that ſhall cauſe others to do the leſs for us hereafter.

I would ye ſhould (*ſend*) your brother word, and ſome other that ye truſt, to ſee to your own livelihood to ſet it in a rule, and to gather thereof that may be had in haſte; and alſo of Sir John Faſtolf's livelihood, that may be gathered in peaceable wiſe, for as for Richard Calle he will no more gather it, but if (*unleſs*) ye command him, and he would fain make his account,

[1] It was uſual in theſe times for perſons growing into years, to procure by purchaſe or gift a retreat in ſome religious ſociety, where, giving up all concern in worldly matters, they paſſed the remainder of their time in prayer and confeſſion; ſome did it to finiſh a pure and unſpotted life in a place ſet apart for religion, where they ſhould be free from every worldly engagement; others undertook it as an atonement for their former evil deeds, with a hope that it might inſure their eternal welfare.

hys .. . acowntte and haue zo^r good Mayſtyr ſchepe as ytts told me and delyu'e y^e euydens of bekkeh'm And alle other thynggs y^t longyth to zow y^t he truſtythe y^t ze wylle be hys good mayſter heraftyr. And he ſethe he wylle not take non newe maſt' tyle ze refuſe hys ſ^ruyſe Remēbyr y^t zo^r lyuelod may be ſet in ſoche a rule y^t y^e may knowe how ytts and wat is owyn to zow for be my feythe I haue holpyn as myſche as I may And mor ſauyng my ſylfe And therfor take hede er yt be weers Thys lett^r was begune on Fryday was vij nythe And enddyd thys day nexte afftyr Mychylmes day god kepe zow and yeue zow g'ce to do as wele as J woold ze dede And I ſcharge zow be war y^t ze ſette no lond to morgage for if eny auyſe zow ther to they arn not zo^r frendds be war be tymes myn auyſe &c. J trow yo^r brother wyll geve zow tydyngs in haſte.

11 ½ by 14.

Paper Mark,
Bull's Head and Star.
Pl. xxii. N° 13.

* Autograph: Pl. II. N° 25.

LET-

and have your good maſterſhip, as it is told me, and deliver the evidence of Beckham, and all other things that longeth to you, that he truſteth that ye will be his good maſter hereafter; and he ſaith he will not take none new maſter till ye refuſe his ſervice.

Remember that your livelihood may be ſet in ſuch a rule, that ye may know how it is, and what is owen to you, for by my faith, I have holpen as much as I may and more, ſaving myſelf, and therefore take heed ere it be worſe.

This Letter was begun on Friday was ſev'night, and ended this day next after Michaelmas day; God keep you, and give you grace to do as well as I would ye did, and I charge you beware that ye ſet no land to mortgage, for if any adviſe you thereto, they are not your friends; beware betimes mine advice, &c. and I trow your Brother will give you tidings in haſte.

[a] MARGARET PASTON.

Begun Friday 22d of September,
ended Saturday 30th September,
1469. 9 E. IV.

LETTER XCVIJ.

Sr. Ioh [1] Heuyngh'm Th' [2] Wyngf'd
Gilbert [3] Debenh'm Wil [4] brandon
and to eu'ych of yē ſeu'ally in
oy'is abſence.

HIT is ſo that accordyng to ſuch direccon as was mevid' to be deſird of my lords beyng heer as for ſuch as heere bee they mrveil gretly y'of thynkyng and remēbring in themſelf yt ſuch offre as was made by my credence to my lorde and to fore you reported ſhuld have ſownyd more to his pleaſure and honor yā this his deſire Nevirtheleſſe my lords thenke where as they wrote and deſirid ioyntly yt ſuch credence as ye remēbre myght be obſruyd and taken And by you refuſid nowe yif they ſhuld aſſent to the deſire of this direccon hit is thought in them not ſo to doo. For it is ſo fortuned yt dyu's of my lords from whome I brought both wrytyng and credence be at the kyngs high c'maundt haſtely depted unto his highneſſe truſtyng in god to haue heeryng in brief tyme of their haſty ayen comyng atte which tyme my lords yt heere bee and they yt ſhal come ayen ſhal comon and ſpeke to gydr of this deſire and direccon and ſuch

This is the only Letter written to the beſiegers, which appears in this collection, and the writer of this cannot be aſcertained: he ſeems however to be a well-wiſher to the Paſtons by what he ſays in his Letter of the opinion of the Lords on this buſineſs, who likewiſe appear favourable to them.

He ſeems to hint that the extremity to which things are carried, is more the fault of theſe Captains to whom the Letter is addreſſed than that of the Duke of Norfolk, who "is noted ſo well diſpoſed."

LETTER XCVII.

(To) Sir John [1] Heveningham, Thomas [2] Wingfield, Gilbert [3] Debenham, William [4] Brandon, and every of them ſeverally in others abſence.

IT is ſo, that according to ſuch direction as was moved to be deſired of my Lords being here, as for ſuch as here be they marvel greatly thereof, thinking and remembering in themſelves that ſuch offer as was made by my credence to my Lord, and tofore you reported, ſhould have founded more to his pleaſure and honour than this his deſire; nevertheleſs my Lords think, whereas they wrote and deſired jointly that ſuch credence, as ye remember, might be obſerved and taken, and by you refuſed, now if they ſhould aſſent to the deſire of this direction, it is thought in them not ſo to do, for it is ſo fortuned that divers of my Lords, from whom I brought both writing and credence, be at the King's high commandment haſtily departed unto his highneſs; truſting in God to have hearing in brief time of their haſty again coming, at which time my Lords that here be, and they that ſhall come again, ſhall commune and ſpeak together of

[1] Sir John Heveningham, knight and banneret, was a deſcendant of an ancient family ſituated at the town of Heveningham, in Suffolk; his ſon Thomas became owner of the eſtate at Ketteringham, in Norfolk, where this family continued for ſeveral generations.

[2] Sir Thomas Wingfield was a younger ſon either of Sir Robert or Sir John Wingfield, of Letheringham, in Suffolk.

[3] Sir Gilbert Debenham, knight, was deſcended of an ancient and knightly family in the County of Suffolk.

[4] Sir William Brandon married Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Robert Wingfield, and was anceſtor to Charles Brandon, afterwards Duke of Suffolk.

this

anſwere as they geve and make ſhall be ſent unto you than with haſte poſſible Ovir y^is^ me thenkith for yo^r^ excuſe of burden and charge ſuch as I hier will be leid vnto you concernyng the grete werks y^t^ dailly be and ar at the Man^r^ of Caſtre yif ye thenk y^t^ god ſhuld haue pleaſir and alſo the kyng oure ſou^r^eign lorde And y^t^ my ſeide lords ſhuld thenk in you gode aviſe or ſad and y^t^ ye entendid to avoide the ſheddyng of Criſtyn blode and the deſtruc-con of the kyngs liege p'ple y^t^ at yo^r^ politik labo^r^ and wiſedome ye myght bryng my lord to thabſtynence of Warre And a Trieux to be had and Contynued vnto tyme of the ret'orn of my ſeid lords or els knowlege of their entent Certifieng you for trouth that y^r^ be meſſengers ſent vnto my ſeid lords w^t^ lrez of ſuch Anſwere as I had of you to yo^r^ deſire to gyd^r^ knowyng Certeinly y^t^ y' ſhal be haſty relacon of y' entents in the p'miſis which anſwers ye ſhall haue atte ferthiſt by Monday cometh ſevenyght Ferthirmore lettyng you wit y^t^ I und^r^ſtond for certein y^t^ my lords y^t^ be heere eſchewe for ſuch incõuenienſe y^t^ myght fall to Conclude any anſwere by yẽ ſelf conſideryng y^t^ my credence was geven by all the lords prayng you as ſhal be doon to the conti'aunce of y^is^ trieux aforeſaid y^t^ I may be acerteyned or yif at this houre ye Coude yit thenk my credence reſonable and hono^r^able to be accepted and taken ſendith me woorde in wrytyng from you by my ſ^r^v'nt bryng of this al delaies leid aparte for I acertein you as he y^t^ owe you ſ^r^uice I was and yit am gretly blamed for my long tarying w^t^ you for dyu^r^s of my lords taried

heere

this deſire and direction, and ſuch anſwer as they give and make ſhall be ſent unto you then with haſte poſſible. Over this me thinketh for your excuſe of burden and charge, ſuch as I hear will be laid unto you, concerning the great works that daily be and are at the manor of Caiſter, if ye think that God ſhould have pleaſure, and alſo the King our ſovereign Lord, and that my ſaid Lords ſhould think in you good advice or ſad, and that ye intended to avoid the ſhedding of chriſtian blood, and the deſtruction of the King's liege people, that at your politic labour and wiſdom ye might bring my Lord to the abſtinence of war, and a truce to be had and continued unto time of the return of my ſaid Lords, or elſe knowledge of their intent; certifying you for truth that there be meſſengers ſent unto my ſaid Lords with Letters of ſuch anſwer as I had of you and your deſire together, knowing certainly that there ſhall be haſty relation of their intents in the premiſes, which anſwers ye ſhall have at furtheſt by Monday cometh ſev'night; furthermore letting you weet that I underſtand for certain that my Lords that be here eſchew, for ſuch inconvenience that might fall, to conclude any anſwer by themſelves, conſidering that my credence was given by all the Lords, praying you, as ſhall be done to the continuance of this truce aforeſaid, that I may be aſcertained, or if at this hour ye could yet think my credence reaſonable and honourable to be accepted and taken, ſend me word in writing from you by my ſervant, bringer of this, all delays laid apart; for I aſcertain you as he that owe you ſervice, I was and yet am greatly blamed for my long tarrying with you, for divers of my Lords tarried here

for

heere for me by thaſſent of al my lords leng^{r} yā they wold haue don to know myn Anſwere and guydyng from you And ovir this I cert\fie you y^{t} ye cannot make my lords heere to thenk y^{t} yif y' be incōuēnient or myſhief murdre or Manſlaut^{r} had or don but and yo^{r} Wills and entents were to the Contr'ye my lord is notid ſo well diſpoſid y^{t} w^{t} oute yo^{r} grete abette^{t} he neiy^{r} will doo nor aſſent to non ſuch thyng prayng you y'for as yo^{r} frende to remēbre wele yo^{r} ſelf and ſo to rule you as my lords may haue in tyme to Come knowlege of yo^{r} more ſadd diſpoſicon yā as yit I feele yey thenk in you And how y^{t} my lords note ſ ū of you Iames Hobert beyng of my lords Counſel can enfo'me you Wherefor for godds ſake remēbr you and delyu^{r} my ſ^{r}v'nt And yif ye thenk my firſt credence or this adu^{r}tiſement ſhal be taken to effect yā I pray you y^{t} my ſ^{r}v'nt brynger hereof may haue ſure condyte to ſpeke w^{t} John Paſton and to report to hȳ theſe direccons and vpon y^{t} to delyu^{r} hym a bill certifyng y^{e} ſame.

11 ½ by 16 ½.

Paper Mark,
A radiated Star of Sixteen Points,
having ꝟꝟꝩ in the Centre.
Pl. VIII. N° 5.

for me, by the aſſent of all my Lords, longer than they would have done, to know my anſwer and guiding from you; and over this I certify you that ye cannot make my Lords here to think that if there be inconvenience or miſchief, murder or manſlaughter had or done, but and (*if*) your wills and intents were to the contrary, my Lord is noted ſo well diſpoſed, that without your great abetment he neither will do nor aſſent to none ſuch thing; praying you, therefore, as your friend to remember well yourſelf, and ſo to rule you, as my Lords may have, in time to come, knowledge of your more ſad (*grave*) diſpoſition than as yet I feel they think in you; and how that my Lords note ſome of you, James Hobart, being of my Lord's counſel, can inform you, wherefore for God's ſake remember you, and deliver my ſervant, and if ye think my firſt credence, or this advertiſement ſhall be taken to effect, then I pray you that my ſervant, bringer hereof, may have ſure conduct to ſpeak with John Paſton, and to report to him theſe directions, and upon that to deliver him a bill certifying the ſame.

London,
September, 1469.
9 E. IV.

LETTER XCVIII.

Cayſtr yelded
J. P.

RYGHT werchepfull Sr I recomand me on to yow. And as for the ſerteynte of the delyurance of Caſtr John Chapman can tell yow how yt we wer enforſyd therto as well as myſylf As for Iohn Chapman and hys iij felaws I haue p'ueyd that they be payid ache of them xls wt the mony yt they had of yow and Dawbeney And yt is J now for the ſeſon that they haue don yow ſeruys J pray yow geue them ther thank for by my trowthe they haue as well deſeruyd it as eny men yt eur bare lyue but as for mony ye ned not to geue hem wt owt ye wyll for they be pleſyd wt ther wagys Wryttyll promyſyd me to ſend yow the ſerteynte of the apoyntement we wer ſor lak of vetayl gone-poudyr menys herts lak of ſuerte of reſcwe dreuyn therto to take apoyntement if ye wyll yt I come to yow ſend me woord and I ſhall peruey me for to tery wt yow a ii or iij dayis by my trowthe the rewardyng of ſyche folkys as hathe ben wt me dwrȳg the ſege hathe putt me in gret danger for the monye God prſerue yow and J pray yow be of good cher tyll J ſpek wt yow and J truſt to God to eſe yor hert in ſome thynggys.

J. Paſton.

8 ½ by 4 ¼.

LET-

On reading this Letter no one can with-hold the praiſe due to John Paſton as a brave ſoldier, and a kind and generous maſter, and at the ſame time wiſhing that he and his companions had been able to have kept poſſeſſion of Caiſter; the noble manner in which he

LETTER XCVIII.

Caiſter yielded. J. P.

To Sir John Paſton, Knight.

RIGHT worſhipful Sir, I recommend me unto you, and as for the certainty of the deliverance of Caiſter, John Chapman can tell you how that we were enforced thereto, as well as myſelf; as for John Chapman and his three fellows, I have purveyed that they be paid each of them forty ſhillings, with the money that they had of you and Dawbeney; and that is enough for the ſeaſon that they have done you ſervice; I pray you give them their thank, for by my troth they have as well deſerved it as any men that ever bear life, but as for money ye need not to give them without ye will, for they be pleaſed with their wages.

Writtil promiſed me to ſend you the certainty of the appointments, we were ſore lack of victuals (*and*) gunpowder, men's hearts lack of ſurety of reſcue (*were*) driven thereto to take appointment.

If ye will that I come to you, ſend me word, and I ſhall purvey me for to tarry with you a two or three days; by my troth the rewarding of ſuch folks as hath been with me during the ſiege, hath put me in great danger for the money; God preſerve you, and I pray you be of good cheer till I ſpeak with you, and I truſt to God to eaſe your heart in ſome things.

JOHN PASTON.

September, 1469. 9 E. IV.

he ſpeaks of his companions, intereſt us both in his and their favour; theſe are the ſame four ſoldiers that his brother Sir John had ſo particularly recommended to him in his Letter dated November 9, 1468.

Autograph. Pl. IV. N° 12.

LETTER XCIX.

To my maſtr Sr
John Paſton in Flettſtret.

RYGHT worchepfull Sr J recomand oñ to you prayīg yow that ye wyll in all haſt ſend me word how yt ye wyll yr Sr John Style John Pampyng W. Mylſent Nycolas Mondonet T. tomſon ſhall be rwlyd and whedyr yt they ſhall ſek hem newe ſeruyſys or not and mathewe bedford alſo for he hathe be wt me yis ſeſō and is fro my modyr And if ſo be yt ye wyll haue thes to abyde wt yow or eny of them ſend word whyche yt they be for betwyx thys and halowmas my modyr is agreyd that they ſhall haue met and drynk of hyr for ſyche a ſerteyn wekly as my modyr and yu and J can acord when we met notwſtādyg if ye kowd get Barney or eny of thes ſeyd folkys whyche yt ye wyll not kepe eny ſeruyſe in the mene ſeſon it wer more worchep for yow then to put them from yow lyek maſterles hondys For by my trowthe they ar as good menys bodys as eny leue and ſpecyally Sr John Stylle and Iohn Pampȳg And I wer of power to kepe them and all thes befor reherſyd by trowthe they ſhold neuer depert fro me whyll I leveyd if ye ſend me word that J ſhall come to yow to london for to Comon wt yow of eny mater ſo god help me I haue neythyr mony to Com up wt nor for to tery wt yow when J am ther but if ye ſend me ſome for by my trowthe thes werkys haue cauſyd me to ley owt for

LETTER XCIX.

To my Maſter Sir John Paſton, in Fleet-ſtreet.

RIGHT worſhipful Sir, I recommend (*me*) unto you, praying you that ye will in all haſte ſend me word how that ye will that Sir John Styll, John Pamping, William Miliſent, Nicholas Maudent, *(and)* T. Tomſon ſhall be ruled, and whether that they ſhall ſeek them new ſervices, or not; and Matthew Bedford alſo, for he hath been with me this ſeaſon, and is from my mother; and if ſo be that ye will have theſe to abide with you, or any of them, ſend word which that they be, for betwixt this and Hallowmas my mother is agreed that they ſhall have meat and drink of her for ſuch a certain weekly as my mother and ye and I can accord when we meet, notwithſtanding if ye could get Berney, or any of theſe ſaid fellows, which that ye will not keep, any ſervice in the mean ſeaſon, it were more worſhip for you than to put them from you like maſterleſs hounds, for by my troth they are as good men's bodies as ever live, and ſpecially Sir John Still and John Pamping; and *(if)* I were of power to keep them and all theſe before rehearſed, by troth they ſhould never depart from me while I lived.

If ye ſend me word that I ſhall come to you to London for to commune with you of any matter, ſo God help me, I have neither money to come up with, nor for to tarry with you when I am there, but if (*unleſs*) ye ſend me ſome, for by my troth theſe works have cauſed me to lay out for you better than ten or twelve

for yow bettyr then x or xij li beſyd y^{t} money y^{t} J had of my modyr whyche is abowt on viij li god amend defowts but y^{is} I warant yow w^{t} out y^{t} it be Mathew whyche ye ſent woord by Iohn Threſsher that ye wold haue to awayt on yow ther is no man y^{t} was hyryd for the tyme of thys ſege that wyll axe yow a peny. Alſo J pray yow ſend downe acomandment to Stutvylle or to ſome awdyter to take acomptys of dawbneys byllys for hys executors ar ſore callyd upon for to admynyſt^{r} by y^{e} bythe byſhop or ellys he ſeythe that he wyle ſeqweſt^{r} Dawbeney ſet in hys dett that ye owt hym xij li and x^{s} whedyr it be ſo or nowt hys byllys of hys owne hand wyll not lye for he mad hys byllys clere or then the ſege Com abowt us. As for the euydence of bekh'm my modyr ſent to Calle for hem. And he ſent hyr woord that he wold make hys acompts and delyu^{r} the Euydence and all to gedyr. My modyr hathe ſent to hym ayen for hem thys day if ſhe ſped they ſhall be ſent to yow in all haſt or ellys and ye ſend for me J ſhall bryng hem w^{t} me ſend my modyr and me word who ye wyll y^{t} haue the rwyll of yo^{r} lyuelod her in thys Contre and in what forme y^{t} it ſhall be delt w^{t}. J wyll not make me maſtyrfaſt w^{t} my lord of Norff. nor w^{t} non othyr tyle J ſpek w^{t} yow and ye thynk it be to be don get me a maſtyr. Dell corteyſly w^{t} the qwen and y^{t} felawſhep and w^{t} Maſtras

Anne

twelve pounds, beſides that money that I had of my mother, which is about an eight pound; God amend defaults, but this I warrant you, without that it be Matthew, which ye ſent word by John Threſher that ye would have to await on you, there is no man that was hired for the time of this ſiege, that will aſk you a penny.

Alſo, I pray you ſend down a commandment to Stutevylle, or to ſome auditor, to take accounts of Dawbeney's bills, for his Executors are ſore called upon for to adminiſter by the Biſhop, or elſe he ſaith that he will ſequeſter; Dawbeney ſet in his debts that ye owed him twelve pounds and ten ſhillings, whether it be ſo or not, his bills of his own hands will not lie, for he made his bills clear, or then (*before*) the ſiege came about us. As for the evidence of Beckham, my mother ſent to Calle for them, and he ſent her word that he would make his accounts and deliver the evidence and all together.

My mother hath ſent to him again for them this day; if ſhe ſpeed, they ſhall be ſent to you in all haſte, or elſe, and *(if)* ye ſend for me, I ſhall bring them with me. Send my mother and me word who ye will that (*ſhall*) have the rule of your livelihood here in this country, and in what form that it ſhall be dealt with. I will not make me maſterfaſt with my Lord of Norfolk, nor with none other till I ſpeak with you; and ye think it be to be done, get me a maſter.

Deal courteouſly with the Queen and that fellowſhip, and with

Anne Hawte [1] for Wappys tyll J ſpek w^t^ zow. Wretyn on Seynt feythys euyn.

[3] J. Paſton.

by ſent George J and my felawſhep ſtand in fer of my lord of Norff. men for we be thret ſore not w^t^ſtandȳg the ſame gardys y^t^ my felawſhep haue as for me J haue non nor non of yo^r^ howſold men nor non wyll haue it wer [2] ſhame to take it.

11 ½ by 8 ½.

The advice given to Sir John Paſton by his brother relative to his ſervants, who had faithfully ſerved him during the ſiege, &c. ſhews the goodneſs of his heart, and intereſts the reader in wiſhing that he had been of ability to have retained them himſelf.

It ſeems odd that a man who had ſo lately commanded a garriſon againſt the forces of the Duke of Norfolk, ſhould, ſo immediately after the ſurrender of the place, have any thoughts of engaging himſelf in his grace's ſervice, as it fully appears by this Letter that J. Paſton had.

LETTER C.

To Maſt^r^ Syr Iohn Paſton Knyght.

RYGHT worchepfull Syr J recomand me to you &c. Jt is ſo y^t^ thys day ther Cam A good felaw to me whyche may not be dyſcou'yd and let me wet that my lord of Norff Conſayll hathe this Cryſtmas gotyn the two wydows whows huſbands wer ſlayn at y^e^ ſege of Caſt^r^ and have hem bowndyn in a gret ſome y^t^ they ſhall ſwe a peel ayenſt me and ſyche as wer ther

w^t^

Miſtreſs Anne Hawte [1] for wappys till I ſpeak with you. Written on Saint Faith's Even.

[3] JOHN PASTON.

By Saint George I and my fellowſhip ſtand in fear of my Lord of Norfolk's men, for we be threatened ſore, notwithſtanding the ſafeguards that my fellowſhip have; as for me I have none, nor none of your houſehold men, nor none will have; it were [2] ſhame to take it.

Thurſday, 5 October,
1469. 9 E. IV.

We learn from it however, that, in diſputes of this kind, whenever the cauſe of diſpute was ended, all animoſity ceaſed, and the different parties forgot they had ſo lately been enemies.

We find a great deal of ſimilar behaviour between the partizans of the White and Red Roſe, during the civil wars of this diſtant period.

[1] This expreſſion "for wappys" I do not underſtand.

[2] J. Paſton's honour and courage are apparent from his thinking a ſafeguard ſhameful.

[3] Autograph. Pl. IV. N° 12. Seal, a Fleur-de-lys and Annulet. Pl. XIV. N° 22.

LETTER C.

To Maſter Sir John Paſton, Knight.

RIGHT worſhipful Sir, I recommend me to you, &c. it is ſo that this day there came a good fellow to me which may not be diſcovered, and let me weet that my Lord of Norfolk's counſel hath this Chriſtmas gotten the two widows, whoſe huſbands were ſlain at the ſiege of Caiſter, to have them bound in a great ſum that they ſhall ſue an appeal againſt me and ſuch

w^t me w^tin the plaſe and they be bownd alſo y^t they ſhall releſe no man w^tin the apell namyd tyll ſyche tyme as my lord of Norff wyll lycence them. Itm, the cawſe is thys as it is told me by dyv^rs that ye meke no more ſwte to my Lord for yo^rſelf then ye do, and therfor they do y^e wors to me for yo^r ſake.

Jt' as for my Comȳg up to london ſo god help me and J may cheſe J Com not ther for argent me fawlt w^tout apell or an Jnkyr of ſom ſpecyall mater of yo^r cawſe it. It' J pray yow remēbyr Caleys for J am put out of wagys in thys Contre It' J pray yow ſend me ſome tydȳgs how the world gothe ad Confortandū ſtomacū Jt' ye muſt puruey anewe Atorny in thys Contre as for me for o^r maters and clamore is to gret and our purſe and wytte to ſlendyr but J wyle Rubbe on as long as J maye bothe w^t myn owne and other menys y^t wyle do for me tyll better peſe be Wretyn thys Sat^rdaye at Norwyche.

J. P.

11 ½ by 8.
Paper Mark,
Bull's head and Star.
Pl. xxii. N° 13.

Two men having been killed during the ſiege at Caiſter, the Duke of Norfolk's counſel inſtigate their widows to lodge an appeal for the murder againſt John Paſton and others. An appeal is an accuſation of a murderer by a perſon who had intereſt in the perſon killed, as the wife had intereſt in the life of her huſband, and muſt be brought within a year and day after the fact committed; and in this appeal of death the King cannot pardon the Defendant.

The

as were there with me within the place, and they be bound alſo that they ſhall releaſe no man within the appeal named till ſuch time as my Lord of Norfolk will licenſe them.

Item, the cauſe is this; as it is told me by divers, that ye make no more ſuit to my Lord for yourſelf then ye do, and therefore they do the worſe to me for your ſake.

Item, as for my coming up to London, ſo God help me, and *(if)* I may chooſe I come not there for, argent me faut, without an appeal or an Inkyr (*q? inquiry*) of ſome ſpecial matters of yours cauſe it. Item, I pray you remember Calais, for I am put out of wages in this country.

Item, I pray you ſend me ſome tidings how the world goeth ad confortandum ſtomachum.

Item, ye muſt purvey a new Attorney in this country, as for me, for our matters and clamour is too great, and our purſe and wit too ſlender; but I will rub on as long as I may both with mine own and other means that will do for me till better peace be. Written this Saturday at Norwich.

JOHN PASTON.

Saturday,
December or January,
1469. 9 E. IV.

The latter part of this Letter contains Latin, French, and Engliſh, by which we may judge how liberally J. Paſton had been educated. He ſeems likewiſe in good ſpirits, though threatened with this appeal.

Autograph. Pl. xxv. N° 21.

LETTER CJ.

To my Ryght worchepfull
brodyr Syr John Paſton Knyght
be thys delyu^ryd.

RYGHT worchepfull Syr J recomand me to yow in my beſt wyſe, lyekyth yow to wet that J have thys day delyu^ryd yo^r mantyll yo^r ^x Raye gowne and yo^r Croſbowys w^t telers and wyndas and yo^r normandy byll to Kerby to bryng w^t hym to london. Jt' in eny wyſe and ye can axe the probate of my fadyrs wyll to be geuyn yow w^t the bargayn y^t ye make w^t my lord of Cant^rbery and J can thynk that ye may haue it and as ſoone as it is preuyd ye or J may haue a lettyr of mynyſtraeyon up on the ſame and A qwetance of my lord Card'nalle euyn foorthe w^t and thys wer on of the beſt bargaynys that ye mad thys ij yer J enſwyr yow and he may make yow Aqwetance or get yow on of the byſheop of Wyncheſtyr for S^r John Faſtolfys Goodys alſo and in my reſon thys wer lyght to be browght a bowght w^t the ſame bargayn And ye p'poſe to bargayn w^t hym ye had need to hye yow for it is told me that my lord of Norff. wyl entyr in to it haſtyly and if he ſo doo it is the wers for yow and it wyll Cawſe them to profyr the leſſe ſyluyr Jt' J pray yow ſend me ſome ſecret tydȳgs of

As this Letter contains a variety of matter I have given it to the reader. The bargain with the Archbiſhop was I ſuppoſe relative to the expences attending the probate of the will, &c.

It ſeems extraordinary that the Norfolk family ſhould ſpeak favourably of J. Paſton, and yet purſue the appeal againſt him for murder.

LETTER CI.

To my Right worſhipful Brother Sir John Paſton, Knight, be this delivered.

RIGHT worſhipful Sir, I recommend me to you in my beſt wiſe. Liketh it you to weet that I have this day delivered your mantle, your [1] ray gown, and your croſs-bows with telers and windlaſs, and your Normandy bill to Kerby to bring with him to London.

Item in any wiſe and (*if*) ye can, aſk the probate of my father's will to be given you with the bargain that ye make with my Lord of Canterbury, and I can think that ye may have it, and as ſoon as it is proved ye or I may have a Letter of Adminiſtration upon the ſame, and an acquittance of my Lord Cardinal even forthwith; and this were one of the beſt bargains that ye made this two year I aſſure you; and he may make you acquittance, or get you one of the Biſhop of Wincheſter for Sir John Faſtolf's goods alſo, and in my reaſon this were light to be brought about with the ſame bargain; and (*if*) ye purpoſe to bargain with him ye had need to hie you, for it is told me that my Lord of Norfolk will enter into it haſtily, and if he ſo do, it is the worſe for you, and it will cauſe them to proffer the leſs ſilver.

Item, I pray you ſend me ſome ſecret tidings of the likelihood

His device to interrupt the keeping of the Court at Saxthorp deſerves notice, and ſhews the plain dealing of the times.

[1] This means a gown made of cloth that was never either coloured or dyed.

of

the lyklyed of the world by the next meſſenger that Comyth between that J may be eythyr myryer or ellys mor ſory then I am and alſo y^t^ I may gwyd me ther aftyr Jt' as for S^r^ R. Wyngfeld J can get no x li of hym but he ſeyth y^t^ J ſhall haue the fayireſt harneys that I can bye in london for ſyluyr but money can J non get I can not yet make my peſſe w^t^ my lord of Norff. nor my lady by no meane yet eu^r^y man tellyth me that my lady ſeyth paſsȳgly well of me allweys notw'ſtandȳg I trowe y^t^ they wyll ſwe the apell thys term yet ther is no man of us Jndytyd but if it wer doon a for the crowners er then we Cam owte of y^e^ plaſe ther is now but iij men in it and the bryggs alwey drawyn. No mor but god lāt yow myn her [2] Wretyn the Twyſday next aftyr ſeȳt Agnet y^e^ [3] fyrſt.

[4] J. P.

Jt. yeſtyrday W. Gornay entryd in to Saxthorp and ther was he kepȳg of a coort and had the tenūts attounyd to hym but er the coort was all doon I cam thedyr w^t^ a man w^t^ me and no more and ther befor hym and all hys feluwſchep Gayne Bomſted &c. I chargyd the tenūts that they ſhold proced no ferther in ther coort upon peyn y^t^ myght folle of it and they lettyd for a ſeaſen but they ſye that I was not abyll to make my partye good and ſo they proſedyd ferther. and J ſye that and ſet me downe by the ſtward and blottyd hys book w^t^ my ſyngyr as he wrot, ſo that all tenūts

[2] This ſentence I wiſh to have explained.

[3] The feſtival of St Agnes, the firſt (and the moſt noted of the two), was kept on the 21ſt of January; her ſecond feſtival was on the 28th of the ſame month, which it is to be obſerved was not the octave of the former, but a diſtinct feaſt upon a different occaſion,

of the world by the next meſſenger that cometh between, that I may be either merrier or elſe more ſorry than I am, and alſo that I may guide me thereafter.

Item, as for Sir Robert Wingfield, I can get no ten pounds of him, but he ſaith that I ſhall have the faireſt harneſs that I can buy in London for ſilver, but money can I none get.

I cannot yet make my peace with my Lord of Norfolk nor my Lady by no means, yet every man telleth me, that my Lady ſaith paſſingly well of me always; notwithſtanding I trow that they will ſue the appeal this term, yet there is no man of us indicted, but if (*unleſs*) it were done afore the Coroners ere then we came out of the place; there is now but three men in it, and the Bridges always drawn. No more but God lāt you mine her [2]. Written the Tueſday next after Saint Agnes the [3] firſt.

[4] JOHN PASTON.

Item, yeſterday W. Gornay entered into Saxthorp, and there was he keeping a Court, and had the tenants attourned to him; but ere the court was all done, I came thither with a man with me and no more, and there before him and all his fellowſhip, Gayne, Bomſted, &c. I charged the tenants that they ſhould proceed no further in their court upon pain that might fall of it; and they letted for a ſeaſon, but they ſaw that I was not able to make my party good, and ſo they proceeded further: I ſaw that and, ſat me down by the ſteward and blotted his book with my finger as

caſion, and it is ſometimes written "Agnetis Nativitas;" but it was on account of a miracle wrought at her tomb that this ſecond feaſt was inſtituted.

[4] Autograph. Pl. xxv. N° 21.

he

tenūts afermyd that the coort was enterupte by me as in yow^r ryght and J reqwered them to record that ther was no peſybyll coort kept and ſo they ſeyd they wold.

11 ½ by 14 ¾.
Paper Mark,
Bull's head and Star.
Pl. x. N° 1.

LETTER CIJ.

To John Paſton Eſquyer
be this deliu^red.

I Grete you wele and ſend you godds blyſſyng and myn letyng you wete that the woman that ſewyth the Appell ageyn yo^r brother and his men is comyn to london to call ther up on And whan that ſhe ſhuld come to london ther was deliu'ed her Cs for to ſewe w^t ſo that be that J her in this countre ſhe wull not leve it but that ſhe ſhall calle ther up on ſuch tyme as ſhall be to yo^r moſt rebuke but if ye ley the bett^r wetch ſhe hath evill councell and y^t wull ſee you gretely utt'ed and y^t ye may und^rſtand be the money that was take her whan ſhe came up and ye ſhuld fynd it J knowe it wele if ther myght haue you at Avāntage ther for for godds ſake make diligent ſerge be the advyce of yo^r Councell that ther be no necglicens in you in this mater ner other for diffaught of labo^r and call upon you^r brother and telle hym

he wrote, ſo that all the tenants affirmed that the Court was interrupted by me as in your right, and I requeſted them to record that there was no peaceable court kept, and ſo they ſaid they would.

Tueſday,
23 January, 1469-70.
9 E. IV.

LETTER CII.

To John Paſton, Eſquire, be this delivered.

I Greet you well, and ſend you God's bleſſing and mine, letting you weet that the woman that ſueth the appeal againſt your brother and his men is come to London to call there upon, and when that ſhe ſhould come to London there was delivered her an hundred ſhillings for to ſue with, ſo that, by that I hear in this country, ſhe will not leave it, but that ſhe ſhall call thereupon (*at*) ſuch time as ſhall be to your moſt rebuke, but if (*unleſs*) ye lay the better watch; ſhe hath evil counſel, and that will ſee you greatly uttered *(outed or diſplayed)*, and that ye may underſtand by the money that was taken her *(given her)* when ſhe came up, and ye ſhould find it, I know it well, if they might have you at advantage; therefore for God's ſake make diligent ſearch by the advice of your counſel, that there be no negligence in you in this matter nor other for default of labour, and call upon your brother, and tell him that I ſend him God's

hym that I ſend hym godds blyſſyng and myn and deſire hym that he wull now a while whill he hath the lords at his entent that he ſeke the meanes to make an ende of his maters for his elmyſes arn gretly coraged now of late what is the cauſe J knowe not Alſo J p'y you ſpeke to Playter that y^r^ may be fownd a meane y^t^ the ſhereffe or the gaderer of the [1]grene wax may be diſcharged of certeyn iſſues that renne up on Faſtolf for Mariotts mater For the balyfe was at hym this weke and ſhuld haue ſtreyned hym but y^t^ he p^r^myſed hym y^t^ he ſhuld w^t^ in this viij days labore the meanes that he ſhuld be diſcharged or ell he muſt c'tent hym &c. Alſo J ſend you be the berer her of cloſed in this lett^r^ v S of gold and p'y you to bey me a ſuger loyfe and dates and Almaunds and ſend it me hame and if ye bewar any mor money whan ye came hame J ſhall pait you ageyn The holy goſt kepe you bothyn and deliue^r^ you of yo^r^ elmyſe. Wretyn on Sent Agas day in haſt.

It' I p'y you ſpeke to Mayſt^r^
[2] Roger for my ſorepe for J had
neu^r^ mor nede therof and ſend it Be
me as haſtly as ye can.

[3] M. M.

12 by 8¾.

Paper Mark,
Croſs Keys.
Pl. XXVII. N° 13.

This Letter contains but little worthy the Reader's attention; I have printed it only to ſhew the means that were laboured by the enemies of the Paſtons to proſecute this appeal.

LET

bleſſing and mine, and deſire him that he will now awhile, while he hath the Lords at his intent, that he ſeek the means to make an end of his matters, for his enemies are greatly couraged now of late; what is the cauſe I know not.

Alſo, I pray you ſpeak to Playters that there may be found a mean that the Sheriff or the gatherer of the [1] Green-wax may be diſcharged of certain iſſues that ran upon Faſtolf for Maryot's matter, for the bailiff was at him this week, and ſhould have diſtrained him, but that he promiſed him that he ſhould within this eight days labour the means that he ſhould be diſcharged, or elſe he muſt content him, &c.

Alſo, I ſend you by the bearer hereof, cloſed in this Letter, five ſhillings of gold, and pray you to buy me a ſugar-loaf, and dates, and almonds, and ſend it me home, and if ye beware (*lay out*) any more money, when ye come home I ſhall pay it you again; the Holy Ghoſt keep you both, and deliver you of your enemies. Written on Saint Agas (*Agatha's*) day, in haſte.

Item, I pray you ſpeak to Maſter [2] Roger for my ſyrup, for I had never more need thereof, and ſend it me as haſtily as ye can.

By

[3] MARGARET PASTON.

Monday,
5th of February, 1469-70.
9 E. IV.

[1] Eſtreats delivered to the Sheriff out of the Exchequer, to be levied in his county under the Seal of that Court, made in green wax, were from thence called green-wax.

[2] Maſter Roger was, I ſuppoſe, ſome Leech, famous for his Syrups, &c.

[3] Autograph. Pl. II. N° 25. Seal, a Fleur de Lys. Pl. XXIII. N° 7.

LETTER CIJJ.

To Syr Iohn Paſton Knyght
or to Thom's Stompys to delyuer
to ye ſeyd Syr Iohn.

RYGHT worchepfull Syr and my ſpecyall good brodyr I recomand me to yow And for as myche as I can not ſend yow good tydȳgs ye ſhall haue ſyche as I knowe It is ſo yᵗ on Wednyſday laſt paſt ye and I, Pampȳg and Edmund Broom wer endyttyd of felonye at the ſeſſyons her in norwyche for ſhotȳg of a gonne at Caſter in Auguſt laſt paſt whyche goone ſlowghe two men J Pampȳg and Broom as pryncypall and ye as Acceſſary notwᵗſtandȳg [1] Townyſend and [2] Lomner held an oppynyon that the vʳdytt is voyd for ther wer ij of thenqweſt that wold not agre to thendyttment and in as myche as they ij wer agreyd in othyr maters and not in that and that they two wer not dyſchargyd fro the remnant at ſyche tym as that vʳdyth of yowyr endytmēt was gouyn ther oppynyon is that all the vʳdyght is voyde as well of all othyr maters as of yowyr whedyr ther opynyon be good or not J can not detʳmyne nor them ſylf neythyr I pray

I have given this Letter as not only containing a caſe of law, but to ſhew the ſteps taken by the Duke of Norfolk's counſel, to harraſs and diſtreſs Sir John Paſton and his party, for the death of two men who, I preſume, were ſhot by thoſe in the place during the ſiege of Caiſter.

[1] It appears from this and ſome other Letters in this Collection, that the Townſhend therein mentioned was a Lawyer.

It

LETTER CIII.

To Sir John Paſton, Knight, or to Thomas Stomps, to deliver to the ſaid Sir John.

RIGHT worſhipful Sir, and my ſpecial good brother, I recommend me to you; and for as much as I cannot ſend you good tidings, ye ſhall have ſuch as I know.

It is ſo, that on Wedneſday laſt paſt ye and I, Pamping and Edmund Broom were indicted of Felony at the Seſſions here in Norwich, for ſhooting off a gun at Caiſter, in Auguſt laſt paſt, which gun ſlew two men, I, Pamping, and Broom as principal, and ye as acceſſary, notwithſtanding [1] Townſhend and [2] Lomner hold an opinion that the verdict is void, for there were two of the inqueſt that would not agree to the indictment, and in as much as they two were agreed in other matters, and not in that, and that they two were not diſcharged from the remnant at ſuch time as that verdict of your indictment was given, their opinion is that all the verdict is void, as well of all other matters as of yours; whether their opinion be good or not I cannot determine, nor themſelves neither.

It is therefore moſt probable that the perſon was Roger Townſhend, of Lincoln's Inn, afterwards a Serjeant at Law, and by Richard III. appointed one of the Judges of the Common Pleas, in which important office he was continued by Henry VII. and knighted.

His ſecond Son John (the iſſue of the elder being extinct) was anceſtor to the preſent moſt noble the Marquis Townſhend, of Rainham, in Norfolk.

[2] Lumnor was a relation of the Paſtons, and his family were ſituated at Mannington, in Norfolk.

I pray

I pray yow let not thys mater be ſlept for I can thynk that my lord of Norff Conſaylle wyll cawſe the wedows to tak an apell and to remeue it up in to the kyngs benche at the begynȳg of thys term Townyſend hathe promyſyd me that he ſhall be at london on twyſday next comȳg and then ye may comon w^t hym in that mater and take hys auyſe It' townyſend and lemnor thynk that and ye haue good Conſayll ye may Juſtyfye the kepyng of the plaſe for the peſybyll poſſeſſyon that ye haue had in it mor then iij yeer but in concluſyon all thys is doo for nowght ellys but for to enforſe yow to take a dyreccyon w^t my lord of Norff. I undyrſtood by R. Lothewell for he and J comonyd in thys mater ryght largely betwyx hem and me Jn ſo myche he tellyth me that and J be at london in the wek next aftyr Seynt Petyr at whych tyme he ſhall be ther hym ſylf he ſeyth y^t my lady hathe promyſyd me hyr good ladyſhep and ſent me woord by hym in as myche as he ſpak for me to hyr that ſhe wold remēbyr myn old ſeruyſe and for get the gret dyſpleſyr in ſyche wyſe that J ſhall undyrſtand that the ſwtte y^t J haue mad to mȳ lord hyr huſbond and hyr ſhall torne to yo^r Auantage and myn more then we weene as yett or ſhall undyrſtand tyll ſyche tyme as I haue ſpokyn w^t hyr good grace and upon thys promeſſe J haue promyſyd ſothewell to meet w^t hym at london that ſame weeke next aftyr ſeȳt Petyr Wherfor I wold paſſȳgly fayne y^t ye wer in london at y^t ſeaſon or nye abowght london ſo that J myght undyrſtand at yo^r plaſe wher y^t I myght ſpek w^t yow or then I ſpek w^t my lady J p'poſe to go to

Cant^r.

I pray you let not this matter be ſlept, for I can think that my Lord of Norfolk's counſel will cauſe the widows to take an appeal, and to remove it up into the King's Bench at the beginning of this term; Townſhend hath promiſed me that he ſhall be at London on Tueſday next coming, and then ye may commune with him in that matter, and take his advice.

Item, Townſhend and Lomner think that and *(if)* ye have good counſel, ye may juſtify the keeping of the place for the peaceable poſſeſſion that ye have had in it more than three year; but in concluſion, all this is done for nought elſe but for to enforce you to take a direction with my Lord of Norfolk.

I underſtood by R. Southwell, for he and I communed in this matter right largely betwixt him and me, inſomuch he telleth me that and *(if)* I be at London in the week next after Saint Peter, at which time he ſhall be there himſelf, he ſaith that my Lady hath promiſed me her good ladyſhip, and ſent me word by him in as much as he ſpake for me to her, that ſhe would remember mine old ſervice, and forget the great diſpleaſure, in ſuch wiſe that I ſhall underſtand that the ſuit that I have made to my Lord her huſband and her, ſhall turn to your advantage and mine both, more than we ween as yet, or ſhall underſtand till ſuch time as I have ſpoken with her good grace; and upon this promiſe I have promiſed Southwell to meet with him at London that ſame week next after Saint Peter; wherefore I would paſſingly fain that ye were in London at that ſeaſon, or nigh about London, ſo that I might underſtand at your place, where that I might ſpeak with you or them *(before)* I ſpeak with my Lady.

[3] Cant^rbery on foot thys next week w^t godds grace and ſo to com to london fro thenſe I pray yow ſe y^t I be ſafe for Parker and Herry Coletts mater [4] Sothewell told me thys that if ſo be y^t ye wyll yo^r ſylf ye ſhall haue bothe good lordſhep and ladyſhep and mony or lond or both and all yo^r maters ſet cler what y^t he menyth I can not ſey As for all othyr maters in thys Contre I ſhall do as well as I may for fawt of monye tyll J ſpek w^t yow J haue many collars on as J ſhall tell yow when I Come No more but god preſerue yow and yo^rs. wretyn at Norwyche fryday next aftyr Corpus Xpi daye.

[5] J. P.

J ded as myche as I kowd to haue lettyd thendyttment but it wold not be as I ſhall enform you and Townyſend knowyth the ſame.

11 ½ by 10 ¾.

[3] On pilgrimage to the ſhrine of Saint Thomas Becket, I ſuppoſe.

[4] Richard Southwell, Eſq. of Wood-Riſing; he acquired this Eſtate by marrying Amy, Daughter and co-heir of Sir Edmund Wichingham, Knight.

I purpoſe to go to [3] Canterbury on foot this next week with God's grace, and ſo to come to London from thence.

I pray you ſee that I be ſafe for Parker's and Harry Collett's matter.

[4] Southwell told me this, that if ſo be that ye will yourſelf, ye ſhall have both good lordſhip and ladyſhip, and money, or lands, or both, and all your matters ſet clear; what that he meaneth I cannot ſay.

As for all other matters in this country, I ſhall do as well as I may for fault *(default)* of money till I ſpeak with you; I have many collars on, as I ſhall tell you when I come.

No more, but God preſerve you and yours; written at Norwich, (*the*) Friday next after Corpus Chriſti day.

[5] JOHN PASTON.

I did as much as I could to have let *(hindered)* the indictments, but it would not be, as I ſhall inform you, and Townſhend knoweth the ſame.

Norwich, Friday,
22d of June, 1470.
10 E. IV.

[5] Autograph. Pl. xxv. N° 21. Seal, a Fleur de Lys and Annulet. Pl. xiv. N° 22.

LETTER CIII.

To Syr Iohn Paſton
Knyght or to Thom's
Stomppys to delyuer
to the ſeyd ſyr John.

AS I ſent yow woord by a lettyr, that Iohn Wymondh'm browght to london J Pampȳg is endyghtyd of Felony and Edmund Broon as p'ncypallys and ye as axceſſary for ſchotȳg of agonne in Awguſt laſt paſt whyche gonne kyllyd ij men and I trowe that my lord of Norff. conſayll wyll make on of the wedows or bothe to ſwe an apell up on the ſame endyghtment thys terme Wherfor I pray yow ſe well to thys mater that when it is ſertyfyid in to the kyngys benche broom and Pampȳg may haue warnȳg that they may p'uey for hem ſelf if ther Com eny capyas owght for hem Townyſend can tell yow all the mater. Alſo ye muſt in eny wyſe be ware for my [1] g'untdam and myn lady [2] Anne and myn oncyll Wyll'm ſhall be at london w'in thes viij or x dayis And I wot well it is for nowght ellys but to make myn oncyll Wyll'm ſwyr of hyr lond notw'ſtandȳg ſhe hath reryd affyn of it be for [3] goodreed the Juſtyſe in my g'unt

The former part of this Letter gives us the ſame information as we received from the laſt, and would not have been inſerted, had I not thought the account of the proceedings relative to the levying the fine worthy of notice.

The being able to produce the Copy of the Fine, ſhews the propriety of Margaret Paſton's cautions to Sir John, reſpecting the great care which he ought to take of his Deeds and Writings.

LETTER CIV.

To Sir John Paſton, Knight, or to Thomas Stomps, to deliver to the ſaid Sir John.

AS I ſent you word, by a Letter that John Wymondham brought to London. J. Pamping is indicted of Felony, and Edmund Broom as principals, and ye as acceſſary for ſhooting off a gun in Auguſt laſt paſt, which gun killed two men, and I trow that my Lord of Norfolk's counſel will make one of the widows or both, to ſue an appeal upon the ſame indictment this term, wherefore I pray you ſee well to this matter, that when it is certified into the King's Bench, Broom and Pamping may have warning that they may purvey for themſelves, if there come any Capias out for them; Townſhend can tell you all the matter.

Alſo, ye muſt in any wiſe beware, for my [1] Grandam, and mine Lady [2] Anne, and mine Uncle William, ſhall be at London within theſe eight or ten days, and I wot well it is for nought elſe but to make mine Uncle William ſure of her land; notwithſtanding ſhe hath reared *(levied)* a fine of it before [3] Goodred, the Juſtice, in my Grandfather's days; and my

[1] Agnes Paſton, widow of Sir William Paſton, the Judge.

[2] Anne, Daughter of Edmund Beaufort, Duke of Somerſet, married William Paſton, the Uncle of Sir John Paſton.

[3] William Goodrede was created a Serjeant at Law, in 1425, in 1431 he was appointed King's Serjeant, and in 1434 became a Juſtice of the King's Bench.

fadyrs dayis And my modyr tellyth me that ye haue the copye of the ſame Fyne I wold auyſe yow to haue it redy what ſo euyr betyd I trow they wyll be the more beſy abowght the ſame mater becauſe they thynk that ye dar not Com in london nor at Weſtme ſtyr to lett them but if ſo be y^t ye haue not the copy of the ſame Fynne look that ye ſpare for no coſt to do ſerche for itt for it wyll ſtand yow on hand I feell by the werk̄yg thys day ſeuennyght I truſt to god to be forward to Caunt^rbery at the fertheſt And upon Sat^rday Com ſeuennygh J tryſt to God to be in london wherfor I pray yow leue woord at yow^r plaſe in Fleet-ſtrett wher I ſhall fynd yow for I p'poſe not to be ſeyn in london tyll J haue ſpook w^t yow J pray yow remēbyr thes maters for all is doon to make yow to drawe to an ende w^t thes lordys that haue yo^r lond fro yow No more but I pray God ſend yow yo^r herttys deſyir in thees maters and in all othyr Wretyn at Norwyche the Monday next aftyr Seynt Iohn Baptyſt.

4 J. P.

11 ¼ by 7 ¼.

4 Autograph. Pl. xxv. N° 21. Seal, a Fleur de Lys and Annulet. Pl. xiv. N° 22.

LET.

mother telleth me that ye have the copy of the ſame fine, I would adviſe you to have it ready, whatſoever betide; I trow they will be the more buſy about the ſame matter, becauſe they think that ye dare not come in London nor at Weſtminſter to let them, but if ſo be that ye have not the copy of the ſame fine, look that ye ſpare for no coſt to do (*make*) ſearch for it, for it will ſtand you on hand I feel by the working.

This day ſev'night I truſt to God to be forward to Canterbury at the fartheſt, and upon Saturday come ſev'night I truſt to be in London, wherefore I pray you leave word at your place in Fleet-ſtreet, where I ſhall find you, for I purpoſe not to be ſeen in London till I have ſpoken with you.

I pray you remember theſe matters, for all is done to make you to draw to an end with theſe Lords that have your land from you. No more, but I pray God ſend you your heart's deſire in theſe matters and in all others. Written at Norwich, the Monday next after Saint John Baptiſt.

JOHN PASTON.

Norwich, Monday,
25th of June, 1470.
10 E. IV.

LET-

LETTER CII.

To oure welbelovid William Swan Gentilman.

R. E. By the King.

TRUSTY and welbeloved we grete you well and for ſoo muche as we be credibly acertayned that o^{r} auncient ennemyes of Fraunce and o^{r} outward Rebells and traitors be drawe to gadre in acorde and entende haſtily to lande in o^{r} countre of Kent or in the p^{r}ties y^{r}of ner adjonyng w^{t} grete might and power of Frenſhemen utt^{r}ly to deſtroie us and o^{r} true ſubgietts and to ſubverte the comon wele of the ſame o^{r} Roy^{me}.

We ſtraitly charge and comãunde you upon the feyth and liegeaunce y^{t} ye bare unto us y^{t} ye arredie you w^{t} alle the felaſhip ye can make and as ſone as ye may undreſtonde y^{t} thay lande in o^{r} ſaid countie or nerbye that ye draw yid^{r} as we have comaunded oy^{r}e our ſubgietts to doo and put you in uttremoſt devoir

The Original, with the King's Signature, from which this Letter is copied, is placed in a MS. Folio Volume, containing many curious original ſtate-papers, and copies of ſtate-papers of various dates and reigns, formerly belonging to Sir Edward Coke, and is thus endorſed in his own hand.

"Privye Seale from Ritchard y^{e} thyrd enhabling Mr. Swannes Auncetours to leavye "Armes."

How he came to miſtake this Signature for that of Richard III. I cannot conceive, it being ſo evidently R. E. Rex Edwardus, that of Edward IV. neither was there any invaſion intended or expected from France, either in September 1483, in the very beginning of the reign of Charles VIII. or in the following year, when that Prince deſired a ſafe conduct for the ambaſſadors, which he intended ſending to England.

This Volume came into the poſſeſſion of that great antiquary Sir Andrew Fountaine, Knight, and is now in the valuable Library of his Nephew and heir Brigg Price Fountaine, Eſq. of Narford, in Norfolk, whence I copied the above Letter, 4th July, 1788.

This

LETTER CV.

To our well-beloved William Swan, Gentleman.

Rex Edwardus. By the King.

TRUSTY and well-beloved we greet you well, and for ſo much as we be credibly aſcertained that our ancient enemies of France, and our outward rebels and traitors be drawn together in accord, and intend haſtily to land in our county of Kent, or in the parts thereof near adjoining, with great might and power of Frenchmen utterly to deſtroy us and our true Subjects, and to ſubvert the common weal of the ſame our Realm.

We ſtraitly charge and command you, upon the faith and liegeance that ye bear unto us, that ye arredie *(make ready)* you with all the fellowſhip ye can make, and as ſoon as ye may underſtand that they land in our ſaid county or nearby, that ye draw thither, as we have commanded other our Subjects to do,

This Warrant, under the King's Signature and Privy Seal, ſeems to have been iſſued in 1470, after the eſcape of Edward from his confinement at Middleham Caſtle, and after his having defeated the Lord Wells near Stamford, when the Duke of Clarence and the Earl of Warwick, retiring into France, were reconciled to Queen Margaret, and aided by Lewis XI. meditated an invaſion of England in favour of Henry VI.

This invaſion they accompliſhed, and landed at Dartmouth in September; on their march they daily increaſed in numbers, when Edward, on their approach towards him and proclaiming Henry VI. was ſeized with ſuch a panic that, retreating towards the ſea-ſhore on the Norfolk Coaſt, he embarked aboard a ſmall veſſel, and after ſeveral eſcapes from Corſairs, &c. he landed ſafely in Holland, when Henry for a few months re-aſcended the throne.

A William Swan is mentioned in Letter XXII. Vol. I. p. 298; but whether he is the ſame perſon here addreſſed does not appear.

For an exact copy of the King's Signature ſuperſcribed to this Letter, ſee Pl. XXIV. N° 1.

and

devoir w^t thaim to reſiſte the malice of o^r ſaid ennemyes and traitours and if thai and ye be not of power ſoo to doo that thanne ye drawe you to our citie of London by which tyme we truſt to be y^re in o^r owne p^rſonne or nerby And if we be not that that thanne ye do farther all ye ſhal bee cōmaunded by o^r Counſail y^re upon y^e payne above ſaid. Yeven undre oure ſignet at oure Citie of York the vij day of Septembr.

12 by 8 ¾.
Paper Mark,
Two pales within a lozenge ſhield,
ſurmounted by a coronet.
Pl. XXVII. N° 9.

LETTER CVJ.

To hys worſhipful Maſt^r
Iohn Paſton Eſquier.

RYGHT wurchupfull Ser J Comaund me to your good mayſterchepe &c. pleſe it you to underſtond that Redford deſyryd me on your byhalfe y^t J Chuld goo and Comon w^t the womā that was the Fullars wyfe of South Walſ'm whech woman is now maryed to on Thom Styward dwellyng in the paryſch of Seynt Gyll in Norwych whech woman ſeyd to me that che ſewyd neu^r the pele butt that ſhe was by Sotyle Craſt brought to the new in att Norwych And ther was mayſtr^r Southwell and

and put you in uttermoſt devoir *(do your greateſt endeavour)* with them to reſiſt the malice of our ſaid enemies and traitors; and if they and ye be not of power ſo to do, that then ye draw you to our city of London, by which time we truſt to be there in our own perſon or nearby; and if we be not that, that then ye do farther all ye ſhall be commanded by our Council there, upon the pain above ſaid.

Given under our Signet, at our City of York, the 7th day of September.

York, Friday,
7th of September, 1470.
10 E. IV.

LETTER CVI.

To his worſhipul Maſter, John Paſton, Eſquire.

RIGHT worſhipful Sir, I commend me to your good maſterſhip, &c. Pleaſe it you to underſtand that Bedford deſired me, on your behalf, that I ſhould go and commune with the woman that was the fuller's wife at South Walſham, which woman is now married to one Thomas Styward, dwelling in the pariſh of Saint Giles, in Norwich, which woman ſaid to me that ſhe ſued never the appeal, but that ſhe was by ſubtile craft brought to the New Inn at Norwich, and there was Maſter

and he entretyd hyr to be my lords wewe by the ſpace of an hole yer next folwyn and ther to he mad hyr to be bowne in an obligacyon And whan that yer was paſt he deſyred hyr to be my lords wedow anoyr yer And than ſhe ſeyd that ſhe had leur loſe yt that ſhe had do than to loſe that and meer and ther for ſhe ſeyd pleynly that ſhe wold no mor of that Matr and ſo ſhe toke hyr an huſbond whech is ye ſeyd Thom Styward and ſhe ſeyth that it was full ſor ageyn hyr wylle that eur the matr went ſo forforth for ſhe had neur non avayle y'of butt it was ſewyd to hyr gret labor and loſſe for ſhe had neur of my lords Councell but berely hyr Coſts to london no mor but god haue you in hys kepyng Wretyn at Norwych the Monday next after the Feſt of Seynt luke.

By your ſrvant •

M. L.

8 by 5.

We here ſee the various artifices that had been made uſe of to bring forward this appeal againſt the Paſtons, and the pains that had been taken by thoſe who ſeemed to have been their friends to diſtreſs them by it.

The endeavours uſed to induce the widow to put herſelf under the Duke of Norfolk's protection, and to become his vaſſal, under the different titles of waive and widow, are curious, and throw ſome light upon the feudal ſyſtem.

Southwell, and he intreated her to be my Lord's wewe (*waive*) by the ſpace of an whole year next following, and thereto he made her to be bound in an obligation; and when that year was paſt, he deſired her to be my Lord's widow another year; and then ſhe ſaid that ſhe had lever *(rather)* loſe that that ſhe had done, than to loſe that and more, and therefore ſhe ſaid plainly, that ſhe would no more of that matter, and ſo ſhe took her an huſband, which is the ſaid Thomas Styward; and ſhe ſaith that it was full ſore againſt her will that ever the matter went ſo far forth, for ſhe had never none avail thereof, but it was ſued to her great labour and loſs, for ſhe had never of my Lord's counſel but barely her coſts to London. No more, but God have you in his keeping. Written at Norwich, the Monday next after the feaſt of Saint Luke.

By your Servant

R. L.

Monday,
22d of October, 1470,
10 E. IV.

I do not exactly underſtand the ſenſe in which the word weve or waive is uſed here, farther than it means to convey the idea of ſubjection.

The widow, however, choſe to be her own Miſtreſs in the ſecond year, and to take another Huſband.

Autograph. Pl. xxv. N° 11. I cannot diſcover the name of the Writer from his Initials.

LETTER CVIJ.

To my ryght worchepfull modyr Margaret Paſton at Mawtby.

RYGHT Worchepfull Modyr aftyr all humbyll recomendacyons as lowely as I can I beſeche yow of yo^{r} blyſſ$\bar{y}$g pleaſyt yow to wete that late yeſt^{r} nyght I cam to Norwyche p'poſe$\bar{i}$g to haue been as thys day w^{t} yow at Mawtby but it is ſo that I may not hold my p^{r}poſe for he that ſhall pay me my q'rter [1] wagys for me and my retenew is in Norwyche and waytyth ourly when hys money ſhall Com to hym it is oon Edmund Bowen of the Cheker a ſpecyall Frend of myn And he avyſyth me to tery tyll the money be com leſt y^{t} I be unpayed for who comyth fyrſt to the mylle fyrſt muſt grynd And as I was wryght$\bar{y}$g thys byll on of the gromys of my lords chambyr cam to me and told me that my [2] lady wyll be here in Norwyche to morow at nyght towards Walſ$\bar{y}$gh'm whyche ſhall I wot well be a nother lett to me but I had more need to be other wyſe ocupyed then to awayte on ladyſe For ther is as yett J trowe no [3] ſperre that ſhall go over the See ſo evyll horſyd as I am but it is told me that Rychard Call hathe a good horſe to ſell And on Iohn

The date of this Letter from J. Paſton, the younger, to his Mother, cannot be certainly aſcertained, though I think I may venture to fix it between 1470 and 1474.

[1] We are here informed that thoſe who had engaged in the King's ſervice received their pay out of the Exchequer quarterly, for themſelves and their waged men.

Becher

LETTER CVII.

To my right worſhipful Mother, Margaret Paſton, at Mawteby.

RIGHT worſhipful mother, after all humble recommendations, as lowly as I can, I beſeech you of your bleſſing. Pleaſe it you to weet that late yeſternight I came to Norwich, purpoſing to have been as this day with you at Mawteby, but it is ſo that I may not hold my purpoſe, for he, that ſhall pay me my quarter [1] wages for me and my retinue, is in Norwich, and waiteth hourly when his money ſhall come to him; it is one Edmund Bowen of the Exchequer, a ſpecial friend of mine, and he adviſeth me to tarry till the money be come, leſt that I be unpaid, "for who cometh firſt to the mill, firſt muſt grind."

And as I was writing this bill, one of the Grooms of my Lord's Chamber came to me, and told me, that my [2] Lady will be here in Norwich to-morrow at night towards Walſingham, which ſhall I wot well be another let to me, but I had more need to be otherwiſe occupied than to await on Ladies, for there is as yet I trow no [3] Spear that ſhall go over the ſea, ſo evil horſed as I am, but it is told me that Richard Call hath a good horſe to ſell,

[2] Elizabeth, Ducheſs of Norfolk, wife of John Mowbray, the laſt Duke of Norfolk of that name, was moſt probably on her way in pilgrimage to the Image of our Lady at Walſingham, to offer at her Shrine, and to obtain through her interceſſion an eaſy pregnancy and happy delivery. Our Lady's favours ſuppoſed to be conferred on women in the Ducheſs's ſituation, (to uſe J. Paſton's proverb) "brought great griſt to her mill" at Walſingham.

[3] Horſemen armed with Spears.

and

Becher of Oxborough hathe an other and if it myght pleaſe yow to geve Syme leve to ryd in to that Contre at my Coſt and in your name ſeyīg that ye wyll geue on of yo^{r} Sonys an horſe deſyrȳg hym that he wyll geue yow a penyworthe for a peny And he ſhall and the pryſe be reſonabyll hold hym pleaſyd w^{t} your payment ought of my purſe thow he knowe it not or hys horſe depert fro hys lands Modyr I beſe yow and it may pleaſe yow to geue Syme leve to ryde on thys meſſage in your name that he may be here w^{t} me to morow in the mornȳg be tymys for wer I onys horſyd I trowe J wer as ferforthe redy as ſome of my neyghborows I herd a lytyll word that ye p'poſeid to be here in Norwyche thys next week I prey God it be thys week Modyr beſeche yow that I may haue an anſwer to morow at the fertheſt of thys mater and of eny other ſervyſe that it pleaſe yow to Comand me whyche J wyll at all ſeaſons redy to acomplyſhe w^{t} gods grace whom J beſeche to p'ſerve yow and yours Wretyn at Norwyche thys Wednyſday in Eſt'n week.

By yo^{r} ſone and ſeru'nt

J. P.[1]

11 ¾ by 6.

[1] Autograph. Pl. xxv. N^{o} 21.

LET.

and one John Butcher of Oxborough hath another, and if it might pleaſe you to give Sym leave to ride into that country at my coſt, and in your name, ſaying that ye will give one of your ſons an horſe, deſiring him that he will give you a pennyworth for a penny, and he ſhall, and the price be reaſonable, hold him pleaſed with your payment out of my purſe, though he know it not ere his horſe depart from his hands. Mother I beſeech you, and (*if*) it may pleaſe you to give Sym leave to ride on this meſſage in your name, that he may be here with me to-morrow in the morning betimes, for were I once horſed, I trow I were as far forth ready as ſome of my neighbours.

I heard a little word that ye purpoſed to be here in Norwich the next week, I pray God it be this week.

Mother, I beſeech you that I may have an anſwer to-morrow at the fartheſt of this matter, and of any other ſervice that it pleaſe you to command me, which I will at all ſeaſons (*be*) ready to accompliſh with God's grace, whom I beſeech to preſerve you and yours.

Written at Norwich, this Wedneſday in Eaſter week.

By your Son and Servant

JOHN PASTON.

Norwich, Wedneſday, April, between 1470 and 1474. 10 and 14 E. IV.

LET-

LETTER CVIII.

To ye Baillies Conſtables and Chambrleyns of our Burgh' of Eye and to eu'ch of yem.

The duke of Suff.

FOR aſmuche as Edmond lee and Iohn Barker which were waged for yor town to awaite upon vs in ye kings ſrvice to lincolne feld and from yens to Exceſtre and ayen. And for yt ſeaſon as we be enformed yei ar not yet fully contented and paied of yeir wags Wherfore upon ye ſighte herof we woll and charge yt ye wt oute any lengr delay paie yem yeir hooll duties acording ye couen'nts yt ye made wt yem And ye faille not herof as ye entende or pleas' W'ten at Wyngefeld ye xxijth day of Octobr.

Suffolk.

1·1 ¾ by 4.

Paper Mark.
Something like a Flower within a Circle, ſurmounted by a Croſs.

Seal,
A Lion rampant, double queuee.

The wages due to theſe men was for their attendance, under the command of the Duke of Suffolk, at the battle of Lincoln Field, uſually called the Battle of Stamford, where the King, in the beginning of March 1469-70, obtained a complete victory over the rebel forces, commanded by the ſon of Lord Welles, who, being there taken priſoner, was a few days after beheaded.

On the news of this defeat the Duke of Clarence and the Earl of Warwick repaired to Exeter, from thence they went to Dartmouth, and there, about May, embarked for France.

We find by this Letter that the King's army followed them to Exeter.

LETTER CVIII.

To the Bailiffs, Conſtables, and Chamberlains of our Borough of Eye, and to every each (one) *of them.*

The Duke of Suffolk.

FOR as much as Edmund Lee and John Barker, which were waged for your town, to await upon us in the King's ſervice to Lincoln Field, and from thence to Exeter and *(back)* again; and for that ſeaſon, as we be informed, they are not yet fully contented and paid of their wages; wherefore, upon the ſight hereof, we will and charge that ye without any longer delay pay them their whole duties according *(to)* the covenant that ye made with them, and ye fail not hereof, as ye intend our pleaſure. Written at Wingfield, the 22d day of October.

SUFFOLK.

Wingfield,
Monday, 22d of October,
1470. 10 E. IV.

This Letter by the date appears to have been written juſt about the time of Edward's leaving the kingdom, when Henry VI. was re-inſtated on the throne, unleſs the payment of the men had been longer delayed, if ſo, it was not written till after Edward's return and re-acceſſion.

John de la Pole, Duke of Suffolk, died in 1491.

Autograph. Pl. VII. N° 3.

N. B. As this Letter was placed here after the Drawings for the Plates were finiſhed, neither the Seal nor the Paper-Mark are engraved; they ſhall be added to the next Plates.

LETTER CIX.

To Iohn Paſton
Eſquyere in haſte.

BROTHER I comand me to yow praying yow y^t^ thys be yow guydyng if other Folkys wy agree to y^e^ ſame y^t^ M. Roos olde [1] Kneuett ye and the worſhypfulleſt y^t^ wyll do for owr ſake as Arblaſt^r^ Iohn Gyneye [2] Wodhows and al other gentelmen y^t^ at the daye wyll be in Norwyche y^t^ ye all holl as on bodye Come to ged^r^ y^t^ my lorde of Oxenforde maye ondreſtande y^t^ ſom ſtrenkethethe reſtyth ther by whyche if it be well handely and proue in the handely I trow Heydonnes parte woll be but an eaſy comparyſon. Neu^r^theleſſe ye than moſt ye be war of on Payn and that is thys Heydon wyll of [3] Crafte ſende amonge yow for caſe vj or mor w^t^ Harneyſe For to ſclandre yowr felawſchep w^t^ ſeyng that they be ryotous peple and natt of ſubſtance requer the gentelmen aboue wretyn that if any men be in Norwyche of the Contre that ber any ſuche harneyſe to do them leue it or any glyſt^r^yng byll the meyr and Siteſeynes of Nowyche wher wonte to haue aſertayne in [4] harneyſe of men of the town

It appears plainly from the contents of this Letter, that it was written during the ſhort time that Henry VI. was in poſſeſſion of the throne.

The Earl of Oxford was coming to Norwich to ſee how the County of Norfolk ſtood affected to the preſent change in the government, and moſt probably to be preſent at the election of Members to be returned for that City, as well as for the County, to ſerve in the enſuing Parliament.

It is a moſt curious Letter, and gives us a very particular deſcription both of the parties and of the politics of the times.

to

LETTER CIX.

To John Paſton, Eſq. in haſte.

BROTHER, I commend me to you, praying you that this be your guiding, if other folks will agree to the ſame, that maſter Roos, old [1] Knivet, ye, and the worſhipfulleſt that will do for our ſake, as Arblaſter, John Gyney, [2] Wodehouſe, and all other gentlemen, that at the day will be in Norwich, that ye all whole as one body come together, that my Lord of Oxford may underſtand that ſome ſtrength reſteth thereby, which if it be well handled and prove in the handling, I trow Heydon's party will be but an eaſy compariſon; nevertheleſs, ye then muſt ye beware of one pain, and that is this, Heydon will of [3] craft ſend among you per caſe *(probably)* ſix or more with harneſs for to ſlander your fellowſhip, with ſaying that they be riotous people, and not of ſubſtance; require the gentlemen above written that if any men be in Norwich of the country that bear any ſuch harneſs to do (*make*) them leave it, or any gliſtering bill *(pole-axe)*.

The Mayor and Citizens of Norwich were wont to have a certayne (*a number*) of men in [4] harneſs of men of the town to

[1] John Knevet, Eſq. of Buckenham Caſtle.

[2] Sir Edward Wodehouſe, Knight, anceſtor to the preſent Sir John Wodehouſe, Bart. of Kimberley, in Norfolk.

[3] This is a curious ſcheme, and worthy the conductor of a modern election conteſt.

[4] Theſe ſeem to be the ſame men as are now continued at Elections for the City, under the denomination of Staveſmen; they are generally the promoters, if not the beginners, of all riots, and were at the laſt conteſted Election, in 1787, very prudently, and to the honour of the magiſtracy, diſcontinued.

to y^e^ nombr of ij or iij or v^c^ whyche if they now do in lyke caſe thoſe wole owe bett^r^ wyll to M Roos and yow y^n^ to other Folkys and if it be ſo y^t^ the thowt nat to haue non ſuche at thys tyme I thynke the Meyr woll do it at y^e^ requeſt of M Roos and yow if lak of tyme Cawſe it not. It'm be well war of Clopton for he hathe avyſed my lorde to be all to gydre rewled by Heydon in ſo moche he hathe reportyd that all thyng and all materys of my lordes and in all the Contre ſcholde guydyd by Heydon if Choptō or Hygham or lowes Iohn be beſy preſe in to my lorde byfor the For the be no Suff. mat^r^ys and tell the Raylyng Prayng them not to cawſe my lorde to owe hys fauor For the pleſer to ſom Folkys ther preſent For if my lorde fauoryd or theye owther by lykelyed my lorde and they myght loſe vj tyme as many Frendes as he ſcholde wynn by ther meanes Alſo if ye Cowde fynde the meanes M R. and ye to Cawſe Meyr in my lordes ere to telle hym thow he ſcholde bynde my lorde to Concell that the loue of the Contre and ſyte reſtyth on owr ſyde and that other Folkys be not belouyd ner neuyr wer thys wolde do nonn harme if it be ſoo y^t^ all thynge go [5] olyver currant w^t^ mor to remembre that ther is owt of that Contre that be nat at Norw. beſyde me that be ryght worſhypfull and as worſhypfull as few be lengyng to Norff. that woll and ſchall do my lorde ſ^r^uyſe the rather For my ſake and Maſt^r^ Roſſys and the rather if my lorde ſemyth nat moche thynge to Heydon guydyng Alſo the godely menes wherby ye beſt can entrete my Coſyn S^r^ W. Calthorpe at the feyde Day wſe them to cawe hym if itt wyll be

[5] This appears to be the word in the original, but the meaning of it I ſhall be glad to have explained.

to

the number of two or three, or five hundred, which if they now do in like caſe, theſe will owe better will to Maſter Roos and you than to other folks; and if it be ſo that they thought not to have none ſuch at this time, I think the Mayor will do it at the requeſt of Maſter Roos and you, if lack of time cauſe (*prevent*) it not.

Item, be well ware of Clopton, for he hath adviſed my Lord to be altogether ruled by Heydon, in ſo much he hath reported that all things and all matters of my Lord's, and in all the country ſhould (*be*) guided by Heydon; if Clopton or Hygham or Lewis John be buſy, preſs into my Lord before them, for they be no ſufficient matters, and tell the railing; praying them not to cauſe my Lord to owe his favour for their pleaſure to ſome folks there preſent; for if my Lord favour or they either, by likelihood my Lord and they might loſe ſix times as many friends as he ſhould win by their means.

Alſo, if ye could find the means, Maſter Roos and ye, to cauſe (*the*) Mayor in my Lord's ear to tell him, though he ſhould bind my Lord to conceal (*it*), that the love of the country and city reſteth on our ſide, and that other folks be not beloved nor never were; this would do none harm.

If it be ſo that all things go [5] olyver current, with more to remember that there is out of that country, that be not at Norwich beſide me, that be right worſhipful, and as worſhipful as few belonging to Norfolk, that will and ſhall do my Lord ſervice, the rather for my ſake and Maſter Roos's, and the rather if my Lord remit not much thing to Heydon's guiding.

Alſo, the goodly means whereby ye beſt can entreat my couſin Sir William Calthorpe at the ſaid day wſe (*adviſe*) them to cauſe him,

to Come ye in hys Companye and he in yow in cheff at yow cheff ſchew and M Roos and he in Company latyng my ſeyde coſyn wete y^t^ I tolde hym ones y^t^ I ſcholde meue hym of a thyng I troſtyn ſcholde be encreſſyng bothe to hys honor and well I ſende yow a lettyr Com to Norwyche by lyklyed to yow on monday laſt paſt it Come ſome what the lattre for J wende haue dyed nat longe by foer it Alſo I receyued on from yow by M blomvyle yiſt^r^ euyn tell my Coſyn W. [6] Yelu^r^ton that he may not appyr of a whylle in no wyſe I trow my Coſyn hys fadr ſchall ſende hym worde of the ſame do y^t^ ye can ſecretly that my lorde be nat heuy lorde on to hym it is undreſtande y^t^ itt is doon by the craffte off Heyd' he gate hym in to that offyce to haue to be ageyn me and nowe he ſethe that he hathe don all y^t^ he can ageyn me and now may dō No mor nowe he wolde remeve hym the dayeis Comen y^t^ he faſtyd the euyn for as an holye yonge monke faſtyd mor than all the Couent aftr that for hys holyneſſe and Faſtyng hopyd to be Abbott whyche aft^r^warde was Abbott than lefte he hys Abſtynens ſeyng the daye was Come y^t^ he faſt the euyn for.

Brother I p'y yow recomand me to my lord of Oxford gode lordſhyp and wher as I told my lord that I ſhuld haue awayted uppon hys lordſhyp in Norff..I wold that I myght ſoo haue don leu^r^ then a hundred li but in godefeth thos maters that I told my lord trewed ſhold lette me war not fynyſhed tyl yeſterday wherfor yf that Cauſe and alſo ſyn Halowmaſſe eu'y other day myſt not hold uppe myn heed nor yet may in ſemech that ſythen the

[6] William Yelverton had been in the intereſt of Edward IV. and therefore durſt not appear till he had ſecured a pardon from the preſent government.

ſeyd

him, if it will be, to come ye in his company, and he in yours in chief at your chief ſhew, and Maſter Roos and he in company, letting my ſaid couſin weet that I told him once that I ſhould move him of a thing I truſted ſhould be increaſing both to his honour and weal.

I ſent you a Letter, which came to Norwich by likelihood to you on Monday laſt paſt, it came ſomewhat the later, for I wend (*to*) have died not long before it.

Alſo, I received one from you by Maſter Blomvile yeſter even. Tell my Couſin W. [6] Yelverton that he may not appear of a while in no wiſe, I trow my Couſin his Father ſhall ſend him word of the ſame; do that ye can ſecretly, that my Lord be not heavy Lord unto him; it is underſtood that it is done by the craft of Heydon, he gat him into that office to have to be againſt me, and now he ſaith that he hath done all that he can againſt me, and now may do no more, now he will remove him.

The day is come that he faſted the even for, as an holy young Monk faſted more than all the Convent, after that for his holineſs and faſting hoped to be Abbot, which afterward was Abbot, then left he his abſtinence, ſaying, "the day was come that he faſted the even for."

Brother, I pray you recommend me to my Lord of Oxford's good Lordſhip; and whereas I told my Lord that I ſhould have awaited upon his Lordſhip in Norfolk, I would that I might ſo have done lever (*rather*) than an hundred pound; but in good faith theſe matters that I told my Lord (*I*) trowed ſhould let me, were not finiſhed till yeſterday, wherefore of that cauſe, and alſo ſince Holymas every other day muſt not hold up mine head, nor

ſeyd day in Weſtm^r Halle and in other place I haue goon w^t a ſtaffe as a Goſte as men ſayd more lyke that I roſe owte of the erth then owte of a fayr laydys bedd and yet am in lyke Caſe ſauyng I am in gode hope to Amende Wherfor I beſhyche hys lordſhyp to pardon me and at a nother tyme J ſhall make dobell Amends For by my trouth a man Cowyd not haue hyred me for v Mark w^t ſo gode will to haue ryden in to Norff. as to haue at thys ſeaſon ther to haue awaytyd in hys lordſhyp and alſo I wold haue ben glad for my lord ſhold haue knowyn what f^ruys that I myght haue don hys lordſhyp in that Contray It' your geer ys ſend to you as Thom's Stampes ſayth ſauyng Mylſents Geer and the [7] Shafeſon whych I Cannot entrete Thom's Stampes to goo therfor thys iij or iiij days Wherfor I knokkyd hym on the Crowne &c. It' loke that ye take hyde that the letter wer not [8] broken or that it Com to your hands &c. Wryten at london on Thurſday next after Seynt [9] Erkenwolds Day &c.

[10] John Paſton, k.

12 by 17. A whole Sheet.
Paper Mark,
A Coronet.
Pl. xxvi. N° 2.

7 A covering for a horſe's head made of iron, jacked leather, &c.

8 The caution concerning the ſafe delivery of the Letter unopened, is worthy of obſervation.

9 Erkenwald, Biſhop of London, founded one Monaſtery at Chertſey, in Surrey, for men, and another at Barking, in Eſſex, for women, who before that time were often obliged

nor yet may, inſomuch that ſince the ſaid day, in Weſtminſter-Hall and in other place, I have gone with a ſtaff as a Ghoſt, as men ſaid, more like that I roſe out of the earth than out of a fair Lady's bed, and yet am in like caſe, ſaving I am in good hope to amend, wherefore I beſeech his Lordſhip to pardon me, and at another time I ſhall make double amends, for by my troth a man could not have hired me for five hundred marks (333*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*) with ſo good will to have ridden into Norfolk, as to have at this ſeaſon, there to have awaited on his Lordſhip; and alſo I would have been glad, for my Lord ſhould have known what ſervice that I might have done his Lordſhip in that country.

Item, your geer is ſent to you as Thomas Stomps ſaith, ſaving Miliſent's geer and the [7] Shaffron which I cannot intreat Thomas Stomps to go therefore this three or four days, wherefore I knocked him on the crown, &c.

Item, look that ye take heed that the Letter were not [8] broken ere that it came to your hands, &c. Written at London, on Thurſday next after Saint [9] Erkenwald's day, (*14th November*).

[10] JOHN PASTON, Knight.

London, Thurſday,
15th of November, 1470.
10 E. IV. (49 H. VI.)

obliged to retire into France for want of a proper retreat in England. He was the Son either of Offa or Ina, a King of the Eaſt Angles, and died at Barking, in the latter end of the 7th century, when his body was interred in his own Cathedral, but was taken up in 1148, and depoſited a-new with great veneration, on the 14th of November.

[10] Autograph. Pl. IV. N° 9.

LETTER CX.

Sineſcallus Comitis Oxonie nigro militi.

NON decet ſineſcallo tam magni Comitis
Ut Comes Oxonie verbis in Anglicis
Scrittere epiſtolas vell ſuis in nuncijs
Aliquid p'ponere ſi non in latinis

igit' ille paup'culus p'dicti Comitis
Magnus ſineſcallus magni cōmtatis
Nuncupat' noff latins in verbis
Ap^d Knapton in curia in forma Judicis

Tibi nigro Militi ſalt'm et omīb'
Notifico quod langdon ille homunculus
Nullam pecuniam lib'are vult gentib'
Quod eſt Magnū Impedimentū n'tris opib'

idcirco tibi mando ſub pena Contemptus
quod tu indilate p'prijs Manub'
Scrbos tuas lettras q'ille homunculus
Copiam pecunie deliberet gentib'

Sin

Theſe facetious Verſes ſeem to have been written without any regard to quantity, the rhiming of the lines in each Stanza appears to be all that was attended to; they are here produced only as a ſpecimen of the Latin Poetry of the age, for other merit of any kind they

LETTER CX.

Seneſcallus Comitis Oxoniæ nigro Militi.

NON decet Seneſcallo tam magni Comitis
Ut Comes Oxoniæ verbis in Anglicis
Scribere epiſtolas, vel ſuis in nuncijs
Aliquid proponere ſi non in Latinis.

Igitur ille pauperculus prædicti Comitis
Magnus Seneſcallus magni Comitatis
Nuncupatur Norff. Latinis in verbis
Apud Knapton in curiâ in formâ Judicis.

Tibi nigro militi ſalutem, et omnibus
Notifico, quod Langdon ille homunculus
Nullam pecuniam liberare vult gentibus,
Quod eſt magnum impedimentum noſtris operibus;

Idcirco tibi mando ſub pænâ contemptûs,
Quod tu indilate proprijs manibus
Scribas tuas litteras, quod ille homunculus
Copiam pecuniæ deliberat gentibus:

they have none, as they abound in falſe quantity, falſe concord, &c. &c. They were written by the Seneſchal of the Earl of Oxford, but to whom, unleſs by the Black Knight we may ſuppoſe Sir John Paſton to be intended, it is not to be diſcovered.

Sin autem p' littras has n'ras patentes
Ego et op'arij q' ſunt conſencientes
Omēs vna voce p'memus ſuos dentes
Niſi liberet pecuniam cū ſumus egentes

Teſte meîpo ap^{d} Knapton p'dicta
Eſt et michi teſtis Maria benedicta
Quod viceſimo die Julij non in derelicta
Erat ſūma ſolidi res hec non eſt ficta.

8 ½ by 12.

Sin autem per litteras has noſtras patentes
Ego and operarij, qui ſunt conſentientes
Omnes unâ voce promemus ſuos dentes
Niſi liberet pecuniam, cum ſimus egentes.

Teſte meipſo apud Knapton predicta,
Eſt et mihi teſtis Maria Benedicta,
Quod viceſimo die Julij non inderelicta
Erat ſumme ſolidi, res hæc non eſt ficta.

20th of July.

A

CATALOGUE

OF THE

ORIGINAL LETTERS, &c.

A LIST OF THE

PLATES, and NUMBERS thereon.

AN

EXPLANATION of the PLATE of SEALS.

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A CHRONOLOGICAL INDEX.

The PLATES of AUTOGRAPHS, N° XXIV. XXV.

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A CATALOGUE of the ORIGINAL LETTERS,

EDWARD IV.

VOL. IV.

Autographs. Pl.	N°		Lettters From and to whom.	
			EDWARD N°.	
V.	14	1	THOMAS Playters, to John Paſton, eſq. or Margaret Paſton.	
XVIII.	9	2	Richard Calle, to John Paſton.	
III.	35	3	. . . Denyes, to John Paſton.	
II.	25	4	Margaret Paſton, to John Paſton.	
XXV.	2	5	Thomas Denyes, to Margaret Paſton, or William Paſton.	—
XXIV.	5	6	John Paſton, to his Couſin, Margaret Paſton.	
II.	25	7	Margaret Paſton, to John Paſton.	
V.	15	8	John Berney, to John Paſton, eſquire.	
II.	25	9	Margaret Paſton, to John Paſton.	
XXV.	16	10	James Gloys, to John Paſton.	—
XXIV.	5	11	John Paſton, to his couſin, Margaret Paſton.	
XXV.	10	12	William Jenney, to John Paſton, eſquire.	
V.	18	13	John Ruſſe, to John Paſton.	
IV.	9	14	John Paſton, junior, to John Paſton, eſquire.	
II.	22	15	Clement Paſton, to John Paſton.	—
XXV.	16	16	James Gloys, to John Paſton, eſquire.	
IV.	3	17	John Mowbray, Duke of Norfolk, to John Paſton, eſquire.	
		18	. . . . . to John Paſton.	
XIX.	16	19	Thomas Howys, to John Paſton, eſquire.	
XVIII.	9	20	Richard Calle, to John Paſton.	—
III.	28	21	James Greſham, to John Paſton, eſquire.	
XXV.	24	22	John Davy, to John Paſton.	
IV.	9	23	John Paſton, junior, to John Paſton.	
II.	20	24	Margaret Paſton, to John Paſton.	
XXIV.	6	25	John Paſton, to his couſin, Margaret Paſton.	—
XXIV.	2	26	John, lord Beauchamp, to ſir Thomas Howys.	
XXIV.	9	27	Sir George Browne, to John Paſton, eſquire.	
IV.	9	28	John Paſton, junior, to John Paſton.	
		29	. . . . . to John Paſton.	
II.	25	30	Margaret Paſton, to John Paſton.	—
XXV.	13	31	Elizabeth Mundeford, to John Paſton, eſquire.	

With their DATES, AUTOGRAPHS, and PAPER-MARKS.

EDWARD IV.

VOL. IV.

N°	Dates.	Year of Reign.	Paper Marks.	Pl. N°
	EDWARD	N°		
1	April, 1461,	1	Bull's head and ſtar.	X. 1
2	5 June, 1461,	1	A bull.	XXII. 16
3	before July, 1461,	1		
4	June or July, about 1461,	1		
5	July, 1461,	1		
6	12 July, 1461,	1	An helmet.	XXVI. 7
7	15 July, 1461,	1		
8	17 July, 1461,	1		
9	18 July, 1461,	1		
10	25 July, 1461,	1	An anchor.	XXII. 12
11	28 July, 1461,	1	A coronet.	XXVI. 2
12	Auguſt, 1461 or 1462,	1 or 2		
13	23 Auguſt, 1461,	1		
14	23 Auguſt, 1461 or 1462,	1 or 2	A croſs flory.	XXVII. 12
15	Auguſt, about 1461 or 62,	1 or 2		
16	24 September, 1461,	1	Bull's head and ſtar.	VIII. 2
17	12 October, 1461,	1		
18	Dec. or Jan. between 1460 and 62.	1 and 2	Bull's head and ſtar.	VIII. 2
19	February, 1461-2,	1	Lozenge ſhield crowned.	IX. 13
20	15 March, 1461-2,	2	Wheels, cap, &c.	XXII. 10
21	24 March, 1461-2,	2		
22	after 1460,			
23	October, after 1460,		A coronet.	XXVI. 2
24	November, between 1461 and 65,	1 and 5		
25	February, between 1461 and 65,	1 and 5	An anchor.	XXII. 12
26	28 Auguſt, between 1461 and 66,	1 and 6		
27	Between 1461 and 66,	1 and 6		
28	Between 1461 and 66,	1 and 6		
29	Between 1461 and 66,	1 and 6		
30	Between 1461 and 66,	1 and 6		
31	February, between 1461 and 66,	1 and 6	Bull's head and ſtar.	VIII. 2

Autographs. Pl.	Nº		Letters From and to whom.
V.	18	32	John Ruſſe, to John Paſton.
IV.	10	33	John Paſton, junior, to Margaret Paſton.
V.	18	34	John Ruſſe, to John Paſton.
V.	14	35	Thomas Playters, to John Paſton.
XX.	29	36	John Paſton, to John Paſton, eſquire.
XXV.	15	37	R. C. V. C. to John Paſton.
III.	28	38	James Greſham, to Margaret Paſton.
V.	16	39	John Wykes, to Margaret Paſton.
XXV.	18	40	J. Daubeney, to John Paſton.
XVIII.	9	41	Richard Calle, to John Paſton, the younger.
XXIV.	3	42	Nicholas, abbot of Langley, to ſir John Paſton, knight.
II.	25	43	Margaret Paſton, to John Paſton.
III.	28	44	James Greſham, to John Paſton.
XXV.	12	45	John Pampyng, to John Paſton.
II.	25	46	Margaret Paſton, to John Paſton.
II.	20	47	Margaret Paſton, to ſir John Paſton, knight.
XXV.	22	48	T. Davers, to ſir John Paſton, knight.
II.	25	49	Margaret Paſton, to John Paſton.
IV.	1	50	Edward IV. to John Paſton, eſquire.
XXIV.	1		
II.	25	51	Margaret Paſton, to John Paſton.
II.	25	52	Margaret Paſton, to John Paſton.
II.	25	53	Margaret Paſton, to John Paſton.
II.	25	54	Margaret Paſton, to John Paſton.
XVIII.	9	55	Richard Calle, to John Paſton.
II.	25	56	Margaret Paſton, to John Paſton.
IV.	2	57	John Paſton, the youngeſt, to Margaret Paſton.
II.	25	58	Margaret Paſton, to John Paſton.
II.	25	59	Margaret Paſton, to John Paſton.
XXIV.	7	60	John Wymondham, to John Paſton.
XXIV.	8	61	ſohn Felbrigge, to John Paſton.
V.	16	62	John Wykys, to John Paſton.
IV.	3	63	John Mowbray, duke of Norfolk, to John Paſton.
XXV.	19	64	Roger Taverham, to John Paſton, eſquire.
XXV.	19	65	Roger Taverham, to John Paſton, eſquire.
XXV.	17	66	B. D. M. S. to John Paſton.
		67	Sir John Paſton, to Margaret Paſton.
XXV.	14	68	Elizabeth Ponyngs, to ſir John Paſton, knight.
II.	25	69	Margaret Paſton, to ſir John Paſton, knight.
IV.	12	70	John Paſton, to ſir John Paſton, knight.
II.	24	71	William Worceſter, to Margaret Paſton.
XXV.	23	72	J. Straunge, to ſir John Paſton, knight.
II.	25	73	Margaret Paſton, to John Paſton.
XXIV.	4	74	Hugh at Fenne, to ſir John Paſton, knight.
II.	25	75	Margaret Paſton, to ſir John Paſton, knight.

	Dates.	Year of Reign.	Paper Marks.	Pl.	N°
32	1462, -	2			
33	5 July, between 1461 and 1469,	1 and 9	A pillar.	XXVI.	5
34	15 July, 1462 or 63, -	2 or 5	Bull's head and ſtar.	IX.	12
35	after July, 1462, -	2	Wheels, cap, &c.	XXII.	10
36	13 March, 1462-3, - -	3	Bull's head and ſtar.	VIII.	2
37	between 1462 and 65, -	2 and 5	Hand and flower.	XXVII.	11
38	between 1462 and 65, -	2 and 5	A ring.	XXII.	17
39	February, between 1462 and 65,	2 and 5			
40	2 July, 1463, - -	3	Hand and flower.	XXVII.	11
41	July, 1463, - -	3	A vine branch.	X.	11
42	4 September, 1463, - -	3			
43	18 January, 1463-4, -	3	A bull.	IX.	10
44	26 January, 1463-4, -	3	Wheels, cap, &c.	XXII.	10
45	laſt of February, 1463-4 -	3			
46	13 May, between 1463 and 65,	3 and 5	A bull.	XXII.	16
47	November, between 1463 and 66,	3 and 6	A bugle-horn ſtrung.	XXVII.	15
48	29 January, between 1463 and 69,	3 and 9	A ring.	XXII.	17
49	8 June, 1464, - -	4	A bugle-horn ſtrung.	XXVII.	15
50	10 September, 1464, - -	4	Bull's head, ſtar, &c.	X.	3
51	May, between 1464 and 66,	4 and 6	A globe and croſs.	XXVI.	3
52	October, between 1464 and 66,	4 and 6	A bull.	IX.	10
53	20 May, 1465, - -	5	Bull's head and ſtar.	VIII.	2
54	27 May, 1465, - -	5			
55	10 July, 1465, - -	5			
56	12 July, 1465, - -	5			
57	14 September, 1465, -	5			
58	27 October, 1465, - -	5	A croſier.	XXVI.	6
59	2 November, 1465, - -	5	A flower.	XXI.	3
60	10 November, 1465, -	5	A bull.	XXVII.	14
61	27 Januuary, 1465-6, -	5	The letter C.	XXVII.	8
62	17 February, 1465-6, -	5	A radiated ſtar of 18 points, and pyx.	XXVI.	4
63	31 Auguſt, before 1466, -	6			
64	June, before 1466, -	6			
65	July, before 1466, -	6			
66	September or October, before 1466,	6	Bull's head and ſtar.	VIII.	2
67	Between 1460 and 70, -	1 and 10			
68	15 December, between 1465 and 71,	5 and 11			
69	29 October, 1466, - -	6			
70	February, after 1466, -	6	Bull's head and ſtar.	XI.	10
71	after 1466, - -	6			
72	January, between 1466 and 69,	6 and 9	A coronet.	XXVI.	2
73	December, between 1466 and 70,	6 and 10			
74	March or April, between 1467 and 69,	7 and 9	Roſe and croſs.	XXVI.	1
75	9 July, 1468, - -	8	A ſnake.	XXVII.	10

Autographs. Pl.	Nº	Letters From and to whom.
XIX.	16	76 Thomas Howys, to the lord cardinal and archbiſhop of Canterbury.
IV.	9	77 Sir John Paſton, knight, to John Paſton, eſq. or John Dawbeney.
IV.	9	78 Sir John Paſton, knight, to John Paſton, eſq. or John Dawbeney.
II.	21	79 William Paſton, to the bailiff of Mawteby.
II.	25	80 Margaret Paſton, to ſir John Paſton, knight.
IV.	12	81 John Paſton, to ſir John Paſton, knight.
		82 Anthony Widville, lord Scales, to . . . . .
		83 Anthony Wydville, lord Scales, to . . . . .
IV.	9	84 Sir John Paſton, knight, to John Paſton.
IV.	12	85 John Paſton, to ſir John Paſton, knight.
XXV.	21	86 John Paſton, to ſir John Paſton, knight.
XXV.	21	87 John Paſton, to ſir John Paſton, knight.
XVIII.	9	88 Richard Calle, to Margaret Paſton.
		89 Margaret Paſton, to ſir John Paſton, knight.
II.	25	90 Margaret Paſton, to ſir John Paſton, knight.
IV.	9	91 Sir John Paſton, to Maſter Wryttyll.
IV.	9	92 Sir John Paſton, to Maſter Wryttyl.
II.	25	93 Margaret Paſton, to ſir John Paſton, knight.
IV.	9	94 Sir John Paſton, to Margaret Paſton.
		95 Sir John Paſton, to John Paſton, and to none other.
II.	25	96 Margaret Paſton, to ſir John Paſton, knight.
		97 . . . . . to ſir John Heveningham, Thomas Wingfield, &c.
IV.	12	98 John Paſton, to ſir John Paſton, knight.
IV.	12	99 John Paſton, to ſir John Paſton, knight.
XXV.	21	100 John Paſton, to ſir John Paſton, knight.
XXV.	21	101 John Paſton, to ſir John Paſton, knight.
II.	25	102 Margaret Paſton, to John Paſton, eſquire.
XXV.	21	103 John Paſton, to ſir John Paſton, knight.
XXV.	21	104 John Paſton, to ſir John Paſton, knight.
XXIV.	1	105 Edward IV. to William Swan, gentleman.
XXV.	20	106 R. L. to John Paſton, eſquire.
XXV.	21	107 John Paſton, to Margaret Paſton.
VII.	3	108 John de la Pole, duke of Suffolk, to the bailiff, &c. of Eye.
IV.	9	109 Sir John Paſton, to John Paſton, eſquire.
		110 The Seneſchal of the earl of Oxford, to the Black Knight.

	Dates.	Year of Reign.	Paper Marks.	Pl.	N°
76	10 October, 1468,	8	Bull's head and ſtar.	XI.	10
77	9 November, 1468,	8	Bull's head and ſtar.	X.	1
78	17 March, 1468-9,	9	A ring.	XXII.	17
79	perhaps 1469,	9			
80	3 April, 1469,	9			
81	7 April, 1469,	9			
82	10 April, 1469,	9			
83	10 April, 1469,	9			
84	April, 1469,	9			
85	April, 1469,	9			
86	1469,	9	Bull's head and ſtar.	XXII.	15
87	May, 1469,	9			
88	1469,	9	Radiated ſtar, & ꝑhꝭ.	VIII.	5
89	before Michaelmas, 1469,	9	Bull's head and ſtar.	XXII.	13
90	1 September, 1469,	9			
91	September, 1469,	9			
92	10 September, 1469,	9	A coronet.	XXVI.	2
93	12 September, 1469,	9	Bull's head and ſtar.	XXII.	13
94	15 September, 1469,	9	A demy bull.	X.	5
95	18 September, 1469,	9	A ring.	XXII.	17
96	22—30 September, 1469,	9	Bull's head and ſtar.	XXII.	13
97	September, 1469,	9	Radiated ſtar, & ꝑhꝭ.	VIII.	5
98	September, 1469,	9			
99	5 October, 1469,	9			
100	December or January, 1469,	9	Bull's head and ſtar.	XXII.	13
101	23 January, 1469-70,	9	Bull's head and ſtar.	X.	1
102	5 February, 1469-70,	9	Croſs keys.	XXVII.	13
103	22 June, 1470,	10			
104	25 June, 1470,	10			
105	7 September, 1470,	10	Lozenge ſhield and coronet.	XXVII.	9
106	22 October, 1470,	10			
107	April, between 1470 and 74,	10 & 14			
108	22 October, 1470,	10	A flower within a circle and croſs.		
109	15 November, 1470, (49 H. VI.)	10	A coronet.	XXVI.	2
110	20 July,				

CATALOGUE of the SEALS affixed to the preceding

EDWARD IV.

N°	Letters from and to whom.
2	RICHARD CALLE, to John Paſton.
3	. . . Denyes, to John Paſton.
8	John Berney, to John Paſton, eſquire.
9	Margaret Paſton, to John Paſton.
13	John Ruſſe, to John Paſton.
16	James Gloys, to John Paſton, eſquire.
19	Thomas Howys, to John Paſton, eſquire.
20	Richard Calle, to John Paſton.
24	Margaret Paſton, to John Paſton.
28	John Paſton, junior, to John Paſton.
32	John Ruſſe, to John Paſton.
34	John Ruſſe, to John Paſton.
40	J. Daubeney, to John Paſton.
41	Richard Calle, to John Paſton, the younger.
44	James Greſham, to John Paſton.
46	Margaret Paſton, to John Paſton.
49	Margaret Paſton, to John Paſton.
52	Margaret Paſton, to John Paſton.
55	Richard Calle, to John Paſton.
56	Margaret Paſton, to John Paſton.
57	John Paſton, the youngeſt, to Margaret Paſton.
59	Margaret Paſton, to John Paſton.
63	John Mowbray, duke of Norfolk, to John Paſton.
64	Roger Taverham, to John Paſton.
65	Roger Taverham, to John Paſton.
66	B. D. M. S. to John Paſton.
71	William Worceſter, to Margaret Paſton.
73	Margaret Paſton, to John Paſton.
74	Hugh at Fenne, to ſir John Paſton, knight.
75	Margaret Paſton, to ſir John Paſton, knight.
78	Sir John Paſton, knight, to John Paſton, eſquire, or John Dawbeney.
86	John Paſton, to ſir John Paſton, knight.
88	Richard Calle, to Margaret Paſton.
99	John Paſton, to ſir John Paſton, knight.
102	Margaret Paſton, to John Paſton, eſquire.
108	John de la Pole, duke of Suffolk, to the bailiffs, &c. of Eye.

ORIGINAL LETTERS.

EDWARD IV.

N°	Seals.	Plate.	N°
2	Eagle's head eraſed,	XXIII.	8
3	ℂ and coronet,	XXVIII.	1
8	A braided piece of twine,		
9	A fleur-de-lys,	XXIII.	7
13	A croſs flory,	XIV.	21
16	A roſe,	XIV.	5
19	A bear paſſant,	XXVIII.	3
20	Eagle's head eraſed,	XXIII.	6
24	A fleur-de-lys,	XIV.	4
28	A ſtag couchant,	XXVIII.	4
32	A croſs flory,	XIV.	21
34	A croſs flory,	XIV.	21
40	W. and coronet,	XIV.	9
41	Eagle's head eraſed, &c.	XXIII.	8
44	A graſshopper,	XIV.	2
46	A ſtag couchant,	XXVIII.	4
49	A fleur-de-lys,	XIV.	4
52	A fleur-de-lys,	XIV.	4
55	Eagles head eraſed,	XXIII.	8
56	A fleur-de-lys,	XIV.	4
57	Fleur-de-lys and annulet,	XIV.	22
59	A fleur-de-lys,	XIV.	4
63	A wheat ſheaf, &c.	XXVIII.	5
64	Imperfect,		
65	A head and helmet,	XXVIII.	6
66	A flower,	XXVIII.	2
71	Imperfect,		
73	A fleur-de-lys.	XIV.	4
74	Flouriſhing tree and ℍ ℱ,	XIV.	13
75	A fleur-de-lys,	XIV.	4
78	Fleur-de-lys furrounded,	XIV.	23
86	Fleur-de-lys and annulet,	XIV.	22
88	Eagle's head eraſed,	XXIII.	8
99	Fleur-de-lys and annulet,	XIV.	22
102	Fleur-de-lys,	XXIII.	7
108	A lion rampant, double queue,		

EDWARD IV.

A LIST of the PLATES and NUMBERS referring to the LETTERS, which have either AUTOGRAPHS or PAPER-MARKS engraved.

Autographs. Pl.	N°.	Letters.	Autographs.
XXIV.	1	105	R. E. Rex Edvardus.
	2	26	J. Beauchamp.
	3	42	Be your welewylland, abbot of Langeley.
	4	74	Yo^{r} owen H. atte ffenne.
	5	6, 11.	Jon. Paſton.
	6	25	J. P. John Paſton.
	7	60	Yo^{r}. poer coſyn and ffrend J. Wymondham.
	8	61	By yo^{r}. coſyn, John Felbrigge.
	9	27	Be yowr howne, G. Browne, K.
XXV.	10	12	Will'm Jenney.
	11	5	Th. Denyes.
	12	45	John Pampynge.
	13	31	Youre owyn, Elyzabeth Mundeford.
	14	68	By your awnt, Elizabeth Ponyngs.
	15	37	R. C. V. C.
	16	10. 16.	James Gloys.
	17	66	B. D. M. S.
	18	40	By yo^{r} por f^{r}vūt, J. Daubeney.
	19	64, 65.	Yo^{r}. chapeleyn, Roger Taverham.
	20	106	R. L.
	21	86, 87, 100. 101, 103, 104. 107	J. P. John Paſton.
	22	48	T. D. T. Davers.
	23	72	By yowr J. Straunge.
	24	22	Be yo^{r} man Joh Davy.

EDWARD IV.

A LIST of the PLATES and NUMBERS referring to the LETTERS, which have either AUTOGRAPHS or PAPER-MARKS engraved.

Paper-Marks. Pl.	N°	Letters.	Paper - Marks.
XXVI.	1	74	Roſe and croſs.
	2	11, 23, 72. 92, 108.	A coronet.
	3	51	A globe and croſs.
	4	62	A radiated ſtar of eighteen points, having yhs in the centre.
	5	33	A pillar.
	6	58	A croſier
	7	6	Something reſembling a helmet.
XXVII.	8	61	The letter C.
	9	105	Two pales within a lozenge ſhield, ſurmounted by a coronet.
	10	75	A ſnake.
	11	37, 40.	Hand and flower.
	12	14	A croſs flory.
	13	102	Croſs keys.
	14	60	A bull.
	15	47, 49.	A bugle-horn ſtrung.

EXPLANATION of the PLATE of SEALS.

EDWARD IV.

Pl. XXVIII. N°			Letters.
	1	Thomas Denyes. - - - The letter T. ſurmounted by a coronet.	3
	2	B. D. M. S. - - - - - A flower or plant reſembling a thiſtle or pomegranate.	66
	3	Thomas Howys. - - - - A bear paſſant, having over his back a branch of ſome flower or tree.	19
	4	John Paſton.—Margaret Paſton. - - - A ſtag couchant. The lines appearing on each ſide of the paper, repreſent the threads by which the letter was bound round and faſtened.	28, 46.
	5	John Mowbray, duke of Norfolk. - - A wheat ſheaf banded, having on each ſide an ear or ſtem of wheat. The ſeal has a braid of twine round it, and is on red wax, and very perfect; the lines on each ſide repreſent the paper which faſtened the letter. The motto is illegible.	63
	6	Roger Taverham. - - - - The head of ſome animal or bird erafed and placed upon an helmet, having the letter I on one ſide of it, and B on the other. The ſeal is octangular.	65

CONTENTS of the PLATES.

EDWARD IV.

Plate.	Autographs, Royal.	Noble.	Commoners.	Total.	Paper-Marks.	Seals.
XXIV.	1	1	7			
XXV.	-	-	15			
XXVI.	-	-	-		7	
XXVII.	-	-	-		8	
XXVIII.	-	-	-			6. Editor, &c.
	1	1	22	24	15	6. Editor, &c.

Arranging all the LETTERS, written during the Reign of EDWARD IV. which are contained in Part of the I. and II. and in the whole IV. Volume of this Work, nearly according to their Dates.

Letters. Vol. I.	Vol. IV.	Dates.	Reign of E. IV.
N° I.		4 April, 1461.	1
II.		18 April, 1461.	
	N° I.	April, 1461.	
III.		. . . 1461.	
IV.		May or June, 1461.	
	II.	5 June, 1461.	
V.		21 June, 1461.	
	III.	Before July, 1461.	
	IV.	June or July, about 1461.	
VI.		10 July, 1461.	
	V.	July, 1461.	
	VI.	12 July, 1461.	
	VII.	15 July, 1461.	
VII.		16 July, 1461.	
	VIII.	17 July, 1461.	
	IX.	18 July, 1461.	
	X.	25 July, 1461.	
	XI.	28 July, 1461.	
	XII.	Auguſt, 1461.	
	XIII.	23 Auguſt, 1461.	
	XIV.	23 Auguſt, 1461 or 1462.	1 or 2
	XV.	Auguſt, about 1461 or 1462.	1 or 2
	XVI.	24 September, 1461.	1
VIII.		4 October, 1461.	
IX.		30 Auguſt, 1461.	
	XVII.	12 October, 1461.	
	XVIII.	December or January, between 1460 and 1462.	1 and 2
	XIX.	February, 1461-2.	1
	XX.	15 March, 1461-2.	2
X.		March, 1461-2.	
	XXI.	24 March, 1461-2.	
XI.		25 March, 1462.	
	XXII.	. . . after 1460.	
	XXIII.	October, after 1460.	
	XXIV.	November, between 1461 and 1465.	1 and 5
	XXV.	February, between 1461 and 1465.	
	XXVI.	28 Auguſt, between 1461 and 1466.	1 and 6
	XXVII.	. . . between 1461 and 1466.	

Letters. Vol. I.	Letters. Vol. IV.	Dates.	Reign of E. IV.
	XXVIII.	. . . between 1461 and 1466.	
	XXIX.	. . . between 1461 and 1466.	
	XXX.	. . . between 1461 and 1466.	
	XXXI.	February, between 1461 and 1466.	
	XXXII.	. . 1462.	2
XII.		12 May, 1462.	
XIII.		. . 1462.	
XIV.		. . 1462.	
	XXXIII.	5 July, between 1461 and 1469.	1 and 9
	XXXIV.	15 July, 1462 or 1463.	2 or 3
	XXXV.	After July, 1462.	2
XV.		1 November, 1462.	
XVI.		. . . 1462 or 1463.	2 or 3
	XXXVI.	13 March, 1462-3.	3
	XXXVII.	. . . between 1462 and 1465.	2 and 5
	XXXVIII.	. . . between 1462 and 1465.	
	XXXIX.	February, between 1462 and 1465.	
	XL.	2 July, 1463.	3
	XLI.	July, 1463.	
	XLII.	4 September, 1463.	
XVII.		10 December, 1463.	
	XLIII.	18 January, 1463-4.	
	XLIV.	26 January, 1463-4.	
XVIII.		28 January, 1463-4.	
	XLV.	Laſt of February, 1463-4.	
XIX.		1 March, 1463-4.	
	XLVI.	13 May, beween 1463 and 1465.	3 and 5
	XLVII.	November, between 1463 and 1466.	3 and 6
	XLVIII.	29 January, between 1463 and 1469.	3 and 9
	XLIX.	8 June, 1464.	4
	L.	10 September, 1464.	
	LI.	May, between 1464 and 1466.	4 and 6
	LII.	October, between 1464 and 1466.	
	LIII.	20 May, 1465.	5
	LIV.	27 May, 1465.	
	LV.	10 July, 1465.	
	LVI.	12 July, 1465.	
	LVII.	14 September, 1465.	
	LVIII.	27 October, 1465.	
	LIX.	2 November, 1465.	
	LX.	10 November, 1465.	
	LXI.	27 January, 1465-6.	
	LXII.	17 February, 1465-6.	5
	LXIII.	31 Auguſt, before 1466.	6
	LXIV.	June, before 1466.	

Letters. Vol. I.	Letters. Vol. IV.	Dates.	Reign of E. IV.
	LXV.	July, before 1466.	
	LXVI.	September or October, before 1466.	
	LXVII.	. . . . between 1460 and 1470.	1 and 10
	LXVIII.	15 December, between 1465 and 1471	5 and 11
XX.		30 April, 1466.	6
	LXIX.	29 October, 1466.	
	LXX.	February, after 1466.	
	LXXI.	. . . after 1466.	
	LXXII.	January, between 1466 and 1469.	6 and 9
XXI.		. . . between 1466 and 1469.	
	LXXIII.	December, between 1466 and 1470.	6 and 10
	LXXIV.	March or April, between 1467 and 1469.	7 and 9
XXII.		Dated wrong.	
Vol. II.			
XXIII.		8 July, 1468.	8
	LXXV.	9 July, 1468.	
	LXXVI.	10 October, 1468.	
	LXXVII.	9 November, 1468.	
	LXXVIII.	17 March, 1468-9.	9
	LXXIX.	Perhaps 1469.	
XXIV.		. . 1469.	
	LXXX.	3 April, 1469.	
	LXXXI.	7 April, 1469.	
	LXXXII.	10 April, 1469.	
	LXXXIII.	10 April, 1469.	
	LXXXIV.	April, 1469.	
	LXXXV.	April, 1469.	9
	LXXXVI.	. . 1469.	
	LXXXVII.	May, 1469.	
	LXXXVIII.	. . 1469.	
XXV.		22 May, 1469.	
XXVI.		6 July, 1469.	
XXVII.		. . 1469 or 1474.	9 or 14
	LXXXIX.	Before Michaelmas, 1469.	9
	XC.	1 September, 1469.	
	XCI.	September, 1469.	
	XCII.	10 September, 1469.	
	XCIII.	12 September, 1469.	
	XCIV.	15 September, 1469.	
	XCV.	8 September, 1469.	
	XCVI.	22—30 September, 1469.	
	XCVII.	September, 1469.	
XXVIII.		26 September, 1469.	
	XCVIII.	September, 1469.	
	XCIX.	5 October, 1469.	

Letters. Vol. II.	Letters. Vol. IV.	Dates.	Reign of E. IV.
	C.	December or January, 1469.	
	CI.	23 January, 1469 or 1470.	
	CII.	5 February, 1469 or 1670.	
XXIX.		18 July, 1469 or 1470.	9 or 10
XXX.		February or March, 1469 or 1470.	9 or 10
XXXI.		7 May, between 1466 and 1476.	6 or 16
XXXII.		27 March, 1470.	10
	CIII.	22 June, 1470.	
	CIV.	25 June, 1470.	10
XXXIII.		9 July, 1470.	
XXXIV.		. . 1470 (1472 query?)	
XXXV.		5 Auguſt, 1470.	
	CV.	7 September, 1470.	
XXXVI.		11 October, 1470.	
	CVI.	22 October, 1470.	
	CVII.	April, between 1470 and 1474.	10 and 14
	CVIII.	22 October, 1470.	10
	CIX.	15 November, 1470 (49 H. VI.)	
	CX.	20 July.	

CORRECTIONS and ADDITIONS.

Letter.	Page.	Line.	VOL. IV.
VII	27	13	*dele* have
		14	*dele* him
XIV	48	19	*for* Sundroys *read* Sundreys
XV	57	3	*for* then *read* than
XVI	59	6	*for* Blakes *read* Blake's
XVII	63	5	*for* riday *read* friday
XVIII	64	9	*for* bet *read* bet^{r}
	66	21	*for* y^{t} y^{t} prſon *read* y^{t} y^{e} prſon
		22	*for* y^{e} *read* y^{t}
XXVI	99	8	*after* to him *add a comma* ,
XXXII	115	2	*for* Controuller *read* Controller
		6	*for* licence *read* licenſe
XXXIV	120	18	*for* that he *read* that the
XXXVIII	133	23	*after* chattel *add a comma* ,
XLIII	155	4	*for* litle *read* little
LIV	211	16	*for* aſſenſion *read* aſcenſion
LV	213	9	*after* underſtood *dele comma and place it after* now,
LX	241	9	after *(provided)* add a comma ,
LXXVI	300	13	*for* ys to *read* ys ſo
LXXXI	320	1 Note, 2	*for* reig *read* reign
LXXXVI	340	25	*for* feſtrx *read* feſtux
LXXXVIII	352	Note, 7	*after* ſphere *dele* to them
	353	Note, 7	*for* bualities, enables *read* qualities, enable
LXXXIX	359	Note, 3	*for* avowale *read* avowal
	365	3	*after* do *dele comma* ,
XC	367	9	*after* departed *dele period and add a comma* ,
XCI	370	Note, 7	*for* ſervant's *read* ſervants'
CVIII	448	Note, 1	*for* was *read* were
CIX	453	29	for (*adviſe*) read (*uſe*)
CX	458	17	*for* Scribos *read* Scribas
	461	2	*for* and *read* &
		5	*for* predicta *read* prædicta
		8	*for* ſumme *read* ſumma

DIRECTIONS to the BINDER.

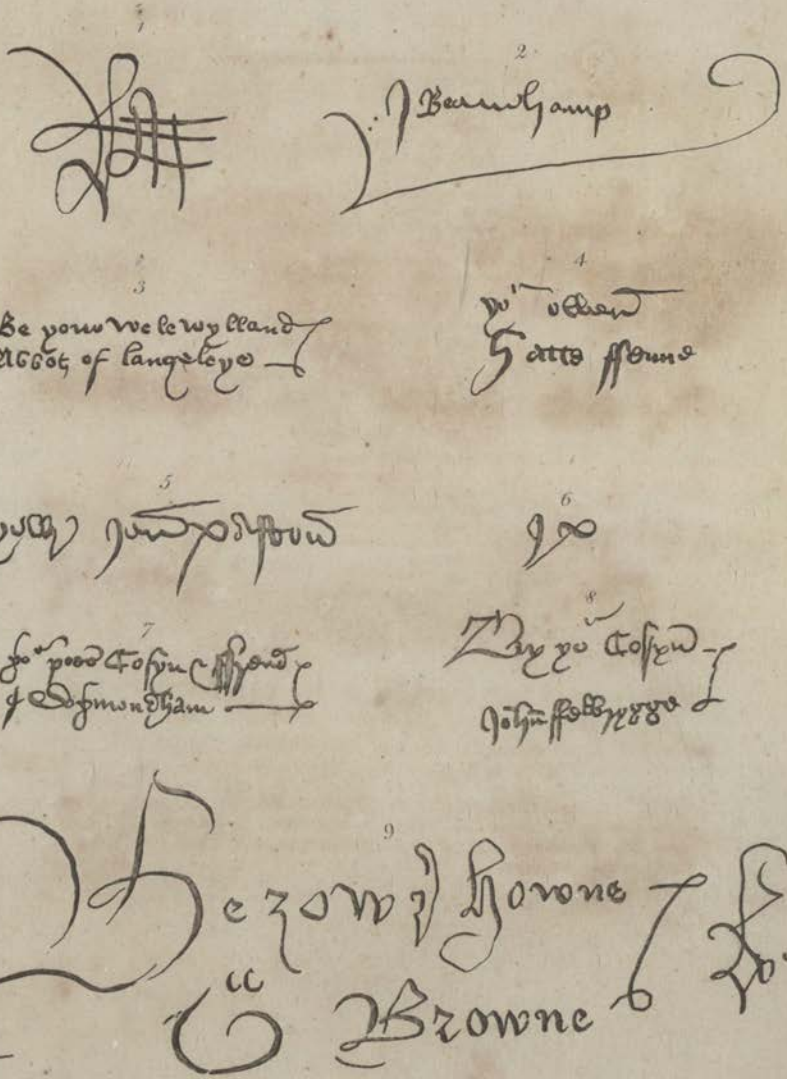
VOL. IV.

Edward IV. Frontiſpiece to Vol. IV. to be placed before the Title Pages.
Plates XXIV.—XXVIII. to be placed following each other at the End of the Volume.

To thoſe Gentlemen who have the whole Work to bind, the Editor would recommend the placing of the Plates in a thin Volume by themſelves, as the ſame Plate is often referred to in different Volumes; this Diſpoſition will render the Plates more uſeful, as they will be more eaſily conſulted.

Autographs.

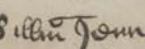
Edward IV. ..... 1460 — 1483.



Autographs.

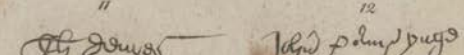
Edward IV. ..... 1460 — 1483.

10



11

12



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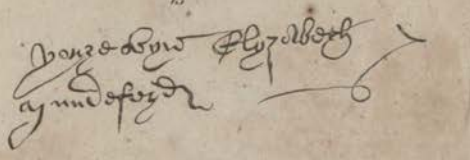

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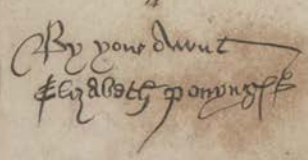

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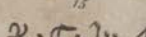

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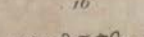

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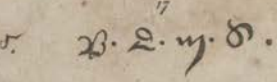

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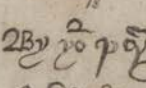

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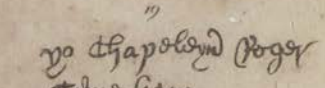

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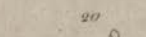

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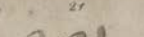

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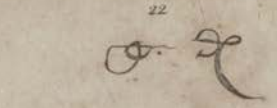

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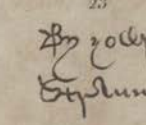

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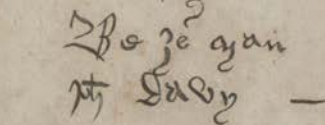
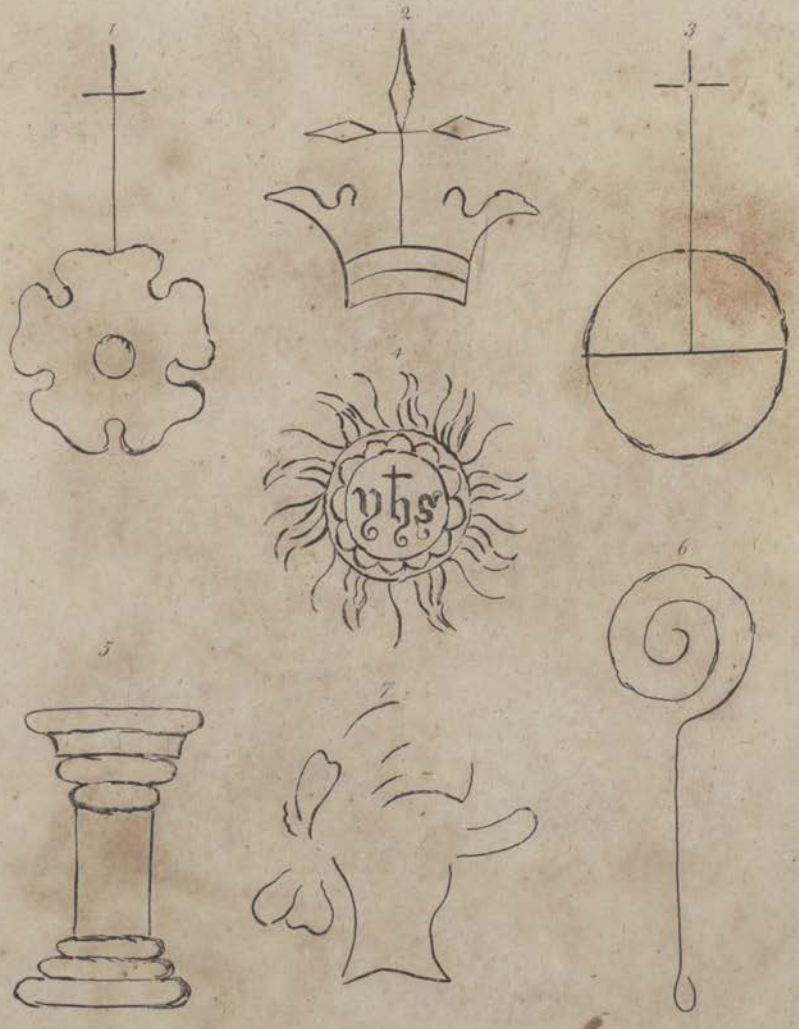


Paper Marks.

Edward IV.....*1460* —— *1483.*



Paper Marks.

Edward IV. ..... 1460 — 1483.

Seals.

Edward IV. ..... 1460 —— 1483.

These Autographs, Paper-Marks, and Seals, were all copied from the Originals in September 1786 by the Editor.

Jno Fenn

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